

Cabinet approves budget speech

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers on Saturday approved the text of the government's presentation of the draft budget for 1997 to Parliament. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said. Officials said slight changes were made in the budget according to the priorities of various ministries and departments. Finance Minister Marwan Awad is expected to present the budget to Parliament this week. The Cabinet also endorsed a draft law on protection for national products and another on securities. Dr. Muasher, briefing reporters after the Cabinet session, reiterated Jordan's call on the new Israeli government to abide by the agreements its predecessor had signed with the Palestinians and move towards the final status negotiations as called for in the interim accords. He pointed out that the interim accord called for Israeli redeployment in the area classified as "B" in Palestinian territories in stages starting Sept. 7 1996 and Sept. 7 1997 but nothing had taken place yet.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالعمانية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Stocks sharply rebound over Iraq deal

AMMAN (R) — Jordanian stocks on Saturday rose to their highest levels in nine months on optimism for a revival of trade with Iraq once the delayed U.N. oil-for-food deal is implemented. Investors said resumed active buying across-the-board was fuelled by the chance for trade revival with Jordan's biggest trading partner. "The market's strong showing may be a prelude for better things to come once Iraq does finally begin to sell oil," said Omar Al Masri, head of Atlas Investment Group, a financial consultancy specialising in regional emerging markets. Firms have still not made up for the loss of the Iraqi market in 1990 when economic sanctions were imposed on Baghdad after it invaded Kuwait. The Amman Financial Market 60-share index rose to its highest level since March to 152.89 points in trade worth JD2.6 million, nearly three-fold its recent average. The bourse's 1.89 per cent rise on Saturday was the highest one day jump since last April's short rally triggered by government instigated buying by state pension funds.

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Parliament reaffirms support for policies as outlined in King's speech from Throne

Lawzi and Srour, presenting Senate and House replies to the speech to Regent, hail Jordan's efforts for comprehensive peace, improved inter-Arab relations and stand on Jerusalem

Both houses endorse government's economic programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on Saturday reaffirmed full support for His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the government over issues pertaining to national economy, relations with Arab countries and the Kingdom's backing for the Palestinian people's struggle to achieve freedom.

Presenting to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, replies to King Hussein's speech from the Throne which was delivered to a joint session of Parliament on Nov. 19, the speakers of the Senate (Upper House) and the Lower House, Ahmad Lawzi and Sa'ad Hayel Srour, said Parliament supported the King's efforts to attain a just comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East based on U.N. resolutions and with a view to safeguarding the present and future Arab people's rights and interests.

The Senate said the speech from the Throne was comprehensive, clearly setting for the government broadlines of policies that are designed to deal with present and future challenges.

The Senate said it highly valued King Hussein's relentless endeavours to settle inter-Arab differences and reestablish sound and strong political and economic ties with other Arab states.

It also endorsed the government's economic policies to address the imbalances in the budget and



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Parliament members at Saturday's presentation of the legislature's reply to the speech from the Throne by His Majesty King Hussein on Nov. 19 (Petra photo)

attract investments and increase production as well as the King's directives to the government to work towards safeguarding national unity grouping Christian and Muslim citizens of different origins. It supported the Royal directives to the government to give due attention to the needy and ensure a "social safety net" for the less fortunate citizens.

The Senate voiced support for the King's endeavours to enhance the capabilities of the Jordanian Armed Forces, which, it said, serve as a shield protecting the nation.

The Senate said that it fully backs King Hussein's policies concerning the holy shrines in Arab East Jerusalem and his announcement that Jordan was serving as a custodian of the holy places until the time comes for handing

over the trust to the Palestinian leadership following Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the final settlement and the creation of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Senate also appreciated King Hussein's policies concerning the relations between the executive and legislative authorities including the question of deputies holding ministerial posts with a view to allowing the two authorities to operate in an atmosphere free of negative influences.

The Lower House of Parliament said it shared with the King his concern over the situation in the Middle East region resulting from Israel's renegeing on its commitments and its agreements with the Palestinian leadership.

The House backed King Hussein's endeavours to prevent the Judaisation of

Jerusalem and its holy sites and condemned Israel's illegal practices which included the opening of new entrance to a tunnel near Al Aqsa Mosque "with the objective of demolishing the holy site."

The deputies said that Israel was pursuing similar plots against Hebron and called for a collective and firm Arab and Muslim stand to confront the Zionist danger in the Palestinian lands.

Stressing the need for continued help to the Palestinians to enable them to regain their rights, the deputies voiced backing for King Hussein's efforts to ensure a comprehensive and just peace.

They condemned Israel's continued attempts to disrupt the peace process by refusing to implement the peace accords and by "black-mailing" the Palestinians.

The deputies said that Amman was qualified to host an Arab summit to discuss the Israeli violations at a time when the Arab countries are supported by the European nations, which, in their latest declaration, voiced clear and overwhelming support for the Palestinian people in the face of Israel's obstinacy.

The House referred to Jordan's economic crisis and said that the crisis does not discourage the Jordanian people from pursuing their efforts towards implementing the economic reform programme and increasing production.

The deputies stressed their backing for government policies regarding openness to the world markets and promoting free trade and its efforts to join the World Trade Organisation and achieve partnership with the European Union.

They recommended that the government carry out measures to ensure continued financial and monetary stability and introduce economic laws encouraging the private sector to assume a bigger role in investments.

The deputies welcomed the government's plans to close the gap among various social classes and called for a reexamination of the roles played by the aid funds with a view to achieving that goal and securing social safety for the underprivileged groups in society.



Delegates from Arab and European parliaments attend the Euro-Arab Parliamentary Dialogue that opened in Amman on Saturday (Petra photo)

Euro-Arab Parliamentary Dialogue seeks to boost EU role in Mideast, enhance European-Arab relations

By Farida Salfiti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Achieving greater cooperation between Europe and the Arab World is the objective of the Euro-Arab Parliamentary Dialogue which opened its two-day session in Amman on Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The main points of discussion are ways in which Euro-Arab cooperation could address reactivating the Middle East peace process with greater European involvement, lifting the sanctions imposed on Arab countries, and combating terrorism. Emphasis was also placed on greater economic and cultural cooperation between Europe and the Arab world.

Crown Prince Hassan expressed his concern in regards to Euro-Arab relations, suggesting that Europe was more concerned with East Asia than with the region, as the Middle East was not present in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit last week. "We felt sadness that at the ASEAN summit we weren't present," he said.

The Regent criticised Europe for its ill-coordinated policy towards the Middle East, and for those who regard the region merely as a market for arms in exchange for cheap oil. Governments need to search in earnest for peace, and not merely pursue their own individual agendas, he said.

Euro-Arab dialogue

needs to develop a discourse that removes some of the contradictions that exist, he added.

"Only once these contradictions are addressed, will an agenda for the Middle East that looks less worrisome than it did at the end of the 19th century be possible," he said.

He stressed the need to address the humanitarian aspect of the region. "My hope is that the New World Order could be made the new world humanitarian order with full participation of civic society," he said.

He welcomed the agreement to allow Iraq to sell oil to buy food and medicine but warned that the limited alleviation of the suffering of the Iraqi people should not provide a reason to continue pursuing a hardline policy against Iraq.

Sir Robert Hicks, co-chairman of the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation, spoke of the possibility of blocking ratification of agreements signed between the European Union (EU) and Israel under the Euro-Mediterranean agreements. He suggested that the implementation of these agreements be linked to progress on the peace front.

During the executive meeting of the Association of European Parliamentarians held on Friday evening, 14 delegates from European national assemblies took the decision to lobby for the postponement of ratification of the Euro-Mediterranean agreement between Europe and Israel. This would send a signal to

Israel that they are unhappy with Israel's current policies towards the peace process.

Sir Robert also said European parliamentarians could exert influence within their national parliaments for greater European involvement in the peace process.

Attending the conference are representatives of European and Arab parliaments. Oman and Kuwait apologised for not being able to participate. The Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation, which organised the dialogue, was established in 1974 by two European parliamentarians to improve and strengthen Euro-Arab relations and to work towards achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. The association has four stated objectives: developing political relations between Europe and the Arab World; cooperation to find a solution to the Palestinian question; developing closer cooperation in the transfer of technology and economic relations; and working towards gaining a greater understanding of each other.

Among its activities, it regularly organises Euro-Arab parliamentary dialogues. The Amman meeting is the first session in eight years that was held in an Arab country. The last Euro-Arab Parliamentary dialogue took place in Paris in April 1994. Although Europe hosted the Madrid peace conference, this would send a signal to

(Continued on page 12)

Qadhafi appreciates Jordan's position

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a cable from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi expressing high appreciation of Jordan's call for a review of the U.N. sanctions against Libya, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. The Jordanian call came in comments made by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti during a press conference in Madrid last week (see page 12).

Prince Hamzeh undergoes surgery

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein on Saturday underwent an appendectomy. According to His Majesty King Hussein's private physician, Samir Farraj, the surgery was a complete success and Prince Hamzeh is now in good health.

Kabariti meets Egyptian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday received at his office Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Mohammed Bassouiny in the presence of Minister of Information Marwan Muasher. The meeting focused on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Arafat visits UAE and Qatar for talks on ties and peace process

Palestinian leader holds talks with Kabariti en route to Gulf, says no advance made in Hebron negotiations

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat flew to Qatar on Saturday after a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during which he met its president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, officials said.

Passing through Jordan earlier on Saturday, Mr. Arafat held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti. He told reporters no real progress had been made in talks with Israel on the delayed handover to Palestinian self-rule of the West Bank town of Hebron and he might seek international arbitration in the dispute.

Mr. Arafat also called on the sponsors of the peace process — the United States and Russia — as well as the European Union and the international community to force Israel to implement its Oslo II agreement with the Palestinians.

"We are looking for international arbitration and especially with the ones who signed Oslo II agreement," Mr. Arafat told Associated Press television.

He paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts to advance Arab-Israeli peace talks, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations.

Mr. Arafat described Mr. Kabariti's short visit to Jericho on Thursday as successful, stressing the identical views of Jordanians and Palestinians regarding the peace process.

During Mr. Kabariti's visit, Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) discussed bilateral relations and joint efforts to advance the peace process, he said.

Mr. Arafat, who was received at the King Hussein Bridge by Mr. Kabariti, said he wanted to congratulate Sheikh Zayed on the successful surgery he underwent at Mayo Clinic few weeks ago and to discuss with him issues of common concern as well as the peace process.

He said he would also discuss bilateral ties and the peace process with the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah Al Thani. President Arafat was seen off by Mr. Kabariti and

senior Jordanian and Palestinian officials, including the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Omar Khatib.

Reports from Abu Dhabi said Sheikh Zayed, in his talks with Mr. Arafat, underlined the importance of abiding by peace agreements reached between Israel and Arab states.

He stressed "the dangers of Israel going back on its pledges, a matter that could destroy efforts to implement peace and stability in the region," the official UAE news agency WAM reported.

The talks also covered bilateral ties and UAE aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas, where Sheikh Zayed is financing a housing project.

"President Arafat also congratulated Sheikh Zayed on the success of his neck surgery and on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the UAE," Palestinian Ambassador Khaled Malak said.

A Palestinian official in Cairo said Mr. Arafat would visit the Egyptian capital on Sunday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the

stalled Middle East peace process.

Zuhdi Al Qidra, the Palestinian ambassador to Cairo, said in a statement that Mr. Arafat would brief Mr. Mubarak on the failure of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to reach agreement on Israel's pullout from Hebron.

A spokesman at Mr. Qidra's office said it was not clear if Mr. Arafat would attend an Arab League emergency meeting to be held in Cairo on Sunday to discuss Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land.

"No practical and tangible progress is being made on the ground because of the rejection by the Israeli side to implement what has been agreed," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat said the Israeli negotiating team in talks on the redeployment of Israeli troops "wanted to change a number of key articles in the Hebron accord, which is what the Palestinian side rejects."

King Fahd, Perry discuss security of U.S. contingent

RIYADH (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry held talks on Saturday with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd on the protection of American servicemen in the kingdom where two attacks have killed 24 U.S. troops in the past year.

"They met for about forty minutes. The focus of the discussion was force protection measures," a senior defence official told reporters travelling with Mr. Perry.

Taking part in the discussion was U.S. Army General Binford Peay, commander of the U.S. Military Central Command.

The official said the king and the secretary noted during the meeting, which began at about 2.00 a.m. local time at the king's palace, that a joint U.S.-Saudi investigation on the second bombing in June that killed 19 Americans "reached no conclusion yet and was still continuing."

Mr. Perry later visited Eskin village, about 130 kilometres south east of Riyadh, where more than 1,000 U.S. troops were moved after the attack.

"We uprooted a lot of you, we did it to protect you," Mr. Perry told the troops at the secure facility. "You can feel quite safe I believe."

Eskin village, originally built by the Saudis for

bedouins, has about 800 air conditioned villas surrounded by a three metre high wall topped by barbed wire and a 90-metre "exclusion zone" between the highway and outer perimeter.

Three checkpoints guarded by soldiers with automatic weapons and guard dogs control access.

The Saudi government executed four Saudis after the first bombing attack. Saudi authorities and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) were cooperating in investigating the two bombings.

The second bombing attack killed 19 Americans and unconfirmed reports says the Saudis have arrested as many as 40 people in connection with the investigations.

U.S. officials earlier expressed their dissatisfaction with Saudi Arabia's cooperation with the FBI. But the FBI said this week it was now satisfied.

"The secretary and the king had a very good meeting in the wee hours of the morning as is normal. The king was very active and engaged. He obviously had prepared himself for the discussion," the senior U.S. official said.

He said the king "reaffirmed the kingdom's commitment to do all it could to help assist in the

relocation and to ensure that American forces are secure and comfortable."

Since an attack in Riyadh in November of last year that killed five U.S. troops, and another in Dhahran on June 25 that killed 19 Americans, the U.S. military has moved 4,000 air force personnel to a remote prince sultan airbase in the desert 100 kilometres southeast of the Saudi capital.

Another 1,000 U.S. military personnel involved in security and cooperating in the investigations were moved to Eskin.

Nearly 100 U.S. F-15 and other attack and fighter jets were moved to Sultan airbase at Al Kharij in the past two months.

"They also reviewed the security situation in the region, including Iran and Iraq," said the official.

Some 200 U.S., British and French warplanes based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continue to fly missions over Iraq to enforce a warning to President Saddam Hussein against attacking Kuwait or Shi'ite Muslims in southern Iraq.

Mr. Perry announced in Kuwait earlier that eight radar-avoiding F-117A Stealth fighter bombers would remain in Kuwait to challenge any threats from Iraq and Iran.



DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASE: Families and friends of prisoners hold signs calling for the immediate release of the detainees in Israeli prisons during a sit-in in Arab East Jerusalem on Saturday. Palestinians demonstrated in West Bank cities for the release of some 4,000 prisoners from Israeli detention who were due to have been freed under the terms of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation peace deals (Reuters photo)

U.N. marks 'International Day of Solidarity' with Palestinians

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations marked the "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" on Friday with declarations of support for peace and thinly veiled attacks on Israel's policies in the occupied territories.

U.N. General Assembly President Razali Ismail of Malaysia said the peace process was at risk because of a "wafer-thin majority that seeks to build a 'secure' future on the foundations of military superiority and the antagonisms of the past."

He did not explicitly mention the Israeli government, but appeared to be referring to the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Razali said the viability of a Palestinian homeland "is now progressively

being diminished by policies of continued closure, repression and restricted movement that denies the rights of the Palestinian people."

"Meanwhile, the human rights situation in the occupied territories continues to deteriorate," he said. "Palestinians are being intimidated and physically abused. The expansion of illegal settlements, the delay in the redeployment of troops from the West Bank city of Hebron and the decision to open an entrance to a tunnel in the vicinity of East Jerusalem have led to an escalation of violence."

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali paid tribute to Israeli and Palestinian leaders for their efforts on behalf of peace.

"But the proposed construction of new settle-

ments in the West Bank and Gaza pose a serious threat to the continuation of the peace process," Mr. Ghali said. "I hope that progress can also be made in the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks of the Middle East peace process."

He said moving the headquarters recently of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which assists Palestinians, from Vienna to Gaza will enable the United Nations to play a more effective role in development projects.

"However, enormous challenges remain, and some of our efforts have suffered setbacks during the year in light of the deteriorating conditions on the ground," he added.

Mr. Ghali called on donor countries to increase their contributions to the agency.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish troops kill 57 rebels

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — The army killed 57 Kurdish rebels in intensified operations along the Turkish-Iraqi border and in other clashes in southeastern Turkey, it was announced on Saturday. One soldier, who stepped on a mine, was killed, the regional governor's office based in this southeastern city said. The dispatch did not say when exactly the operations took place, but said 47 rebels, trying to infiltrate into Turkey from northern Iraq, were killed in Hakkari province, bordering Iraq. The Kurdish guerrillas, fighting for autonomy in Turkey's southeast since 1984, stage hit-and-run attacks from their bases in northern Iraq. The rest of the rebel casualties occurred in the provinces of Bingol, Simak and Siirt. More than 210,000 people have lost their lives in the conflict since 1984.

Turkish opposition party sponsors protests

ISTANBUL (AP) — Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in a downtown square Saturday over allegations of mafia-linked corruption. Opposition parties have blamed the Islamic-led government for allowing organised crime to sneak into its ranks and into the security forces. Alleged state-mafia ties came to light early this month when a fugitive ultranationalist connected to the Turkish mafia, and a police chief were killed in a traffic accident. They were riding in the same car.

Wall collapse kills 3 in Mecca

JEDDAH (AP) — A wall collapsed at a construction site in Mecca, killing three Egyptian workers and injuring three others, the Arab News reported Saturday. The site was in the Harat Al Bab district near the Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest site. The accident occurred Friday. On Wednesday, two old buildings collapsed in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, killing one Yemeni man and injuring three Somalis, including a two-month old boy. The buildings apparently toppled after unusually heavy rains recently that weakened the roofs and walls, the newspaper said.

Bosnian premier in Kuwait seeking funds

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic began a two-day visit here on Saturday to try to drum up financial support for the reconstruction of his war-torn country, the official Kuwaiti news agency said. Mr. Muratovic met Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and other ministers. KUNA said. In an interview with KUNA on Thursday, Mr. Muratovic said his discussions in Kuwait and other Gulf states were aimed at boosting political and financial support for Bosnia's reconstruction programme. The state-owned Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which provides soft loans and grants inside and outside the Arab World, signed a memorandum in July to help finance a range of infrastructure repair projects in Bosnia.

Iran concludes 'successful' military exercises in Gulf

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's military forces have concluded "successful" manoeuvres in the Gulf and Oman sea, the official IRNA news agency announced Saturday.

The last phase of the manoeuvres, code-named "Victory 7," involved the firing of surface-to-air missiles on Thursday whose speed and range have been improved by Iranian technicians, the news agency said.

Some 10,000 servicemen, 40 aircraft and 100 warships took part in the 10-day military exercises, Iran's largest ever, IRNA said.

According to the Iranian authorities, the aim of the manoeuvres was to reinforce coordination between the regular army, navy and units of the elite revolutionary guards.

State television reported Thursday that a helicopter had crashed during the manoeuvres. It said the accident was caused by technical problems, but

gave no indication of casualties or when the helicopter crashed.

During the manoeuvres, Iranian tested indigenous rocket launchers named "Thunder" and equipped with the "most advanced mechanical and electronic systems."

Iranian jets, destroyers, gunboats and marines also launched a 14-hour dusk to dawn attack to retake an island from a mock enemy.

The operation covered an area of 2,000 square kilometres around the islands of Ghesm and Hengam, which are close to the three strategic islands claimed by both Tehran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Iran presently controls Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb and has vowed to go to war to keep them.

Iran became the only country in the Gulf that possesses submarines after it acquired three Kilo-class subs from Russia.

Saddam aide to be treated in France

AMMAN (J.T) — A close aide to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is due in Paris on Monday to be treated for a blood clot on the brain, officials here said Saturday.

Colonel Roukan Razzouki Abdel Ghafour Al Majid, 40, President Saddam's aide de camp, has been treated in a hospital in Amman for the past two days, added the officials, quoted by the Agence France Presse.

Col. Majid belongs to the powerful Al Majid family which, according to Iraqi officials, carried out the assassination of two of President Saddam's sons-in-law when they returned home in February after defecting to Jordan in August 1995.

Many Iraqi officials have undergone medical treatment in Amman mainly because of the crippled health services in Iraq because of the international sanctions on that country.

Egyptian ambassador to Israel denies ties are worsening

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Egypt's ambassador to Israel said Saturday that relations between the two countries were "normal" and have not deteriorated.

"There is no deterioration, bilateral relations are normal," Mohammad Bassiouny told Israeli radio.

"This does not mean Egypt has to approve all the decisions of the Israeli government, just as Israel does not have to accept all of our demands," the Egyptian diplomat said.

Asked about reports of his possible recall to Egypt, Mr. Bassiouny said: "I don't know anything about that. It's up to the government to make such a decision and I haven't heard anything officially."

The Egyptian envoy called on the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to implement all of the agreements reached with the Palestinians.

"We urge the Israeli government to start implementing the Oslo accords on Hebron, but also the extension of autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the opening of a free passage between the two regions," he said.

Cairo has been increasingly critical of Mr. Netanyahu since he took power in June, but the

ambassador said: "We have absolutely nothing against Mr. Netanyahu. We just want to encourage him to apply the agreements."

Mr. Bassiouny denied that Egypt was seeking to persuade other Arab countries not to normalise relations with Israel. "We have diplomatic relations with Israel," he said. "How could we convince other Arab countries not to do the same?"

He recalled that Egypt was a member of the Arab League and bound to abide by its decisions. Asked about Israeli-Syrian relations, the ambassador called for an end to the "verbal escalation" between the two countries and criticised statements made by Israeli leaders.

The envoy also said that Egyptian military manoeuvres in September were not of an aggressive nature. "The Israeli army also trains from time to time. To have a strong peace you need a strong army. That's our strategy," he said.

Anger over pyramids comment

Egypt's culture minister has attacked Mr. Netanyahu for claiming that the Giza Pyramids were built by Jews and not the ancient Egyptians. "We will not stand by and do nothing about

these allegations, which show an ignorance of history," Culture Minister Farouk Husni was quoted as saying in Saturday's editions of Al Wafd newspaper.

The paper did not give any details about Mr. Netanyahu's claims or when he made them. Mr. Hosni said, however, that Mr. Netanyahu was not the first to make such allegations, recalling comments which sparked Egyptian outrage in the 1970s by the then Israeli prime minister, Menachem Begin, who said during a visit to the pyramids that they were the work of Jews.

"(Netanyahu) should have referred to historical works to know that the Jews arrived for the first time in Egypt (after the construction of the pyramids)," Mr. Hosni said. The three Giza Pyramids were built between 2700 and 2190 B.C. as royal tombs. According to the Bible, Jewish slaves took part in their construction before leaving Egypt with Moses.

"The temples and tombs were sacred to the pharaohs, and that is why they did not allow non-Egyptians to approach them or to take part in their construction," Mr. Hosni said. "Jews did work in Egypt as stonemasons, which could be the origin of these allegations," he added.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:05.....Fievels American Tails
14:30.....You Bet Your Life
15:00.....Cajou
15:30.....Week-End Spectacular
16:00.....Doc.....World Echo
16:30.....The Famous Five (Drama)
17:00.....News Flash
17:02.....Our World, Their World
17:15.....Search and Rescue
18:00.....Magazine.....Faut Pas Rever
19:00.....Le Journal
19:15.....Magazine.....Sports Et Musique
19:30.....News Headlines
19:35.....Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:00.....Auto-Classics
20:30.....The Album Show
21:10.....Doc.....Hold Up the Sun
22:00.....News in English
22:25.....Drama.....Cover
23:15.....Miami Vice
23:59.....Yes Minister

PRAYER TIMES

04:51.....Fajr
06:12.....(Sunrise) Duha
11:24.....Dhuhr
14:14.....Asr
16:36.....Maghreb
17:57.....Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.

De La Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
711331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church
Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Skies will be cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman.....09/19
Aqaba.....14/28
Deserts.....07/21
Jordan Valley.....14/28

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 21, Aqaba 29 Humidity
readings: Amman 31 per cent,
Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bassam Karadshah.....759200
Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi.....894788
Dr. Khalid Abdo.....657129
Dr. Salman Daboubi.....776751
Firas pharmacy.....661912
Ferdows pharmacy.....778336
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055
Nainoukh pharmacy.....623672
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660
Najib pharmacy.....847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr.....276852
Al Quds pharmacy.....642816
ZARQA:
Dr. Riyadh Al Ya'coub.....543368
Khalifah pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

Amman.....630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints.....897467
Amman Municipality Complaints
Tel. 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs.....623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101
Jordan Television.....773111
Radio Jordan.....774111
Water Authority.....680100
J. Electricity Authority.....815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information.....08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport US-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussini Medical Centre.....813813/32
Khalidi Maternity.....642816
Akileh Maternity.....642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....636140
Palestine Shmeisani.....607071
Shmeisani Hospital.....669131
University Hospital.....845845

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:45.....Aqaba (RJ)
08:15.....Bombay (RJ)
08:35.....Jeddah (RJ)
08:45.....Beirut (RJ)
09:00.....Larnaca (RJ)
09:15.....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:50.....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15.....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
13:05.....Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:05.....Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:45.....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
17:45.....London (RJ)
18:10.....Athens (RJ)
19:10.....Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30.....Tunis (RJ)
19:50.....Rome (RJ)
20:00.....Jeddah (add) (RJ)
20:30.....Vienna (RJ)
00:40.....Cairo (RJ)
03:00.....Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

06:20.....Tel Aviv (LY)
12:40.....Bahrain (GF)
15:20.....Moscow (SU)
15:30.....Doha (ME)
20:10.....Beirut (ME)
20:30.....Cairo (MS)
23:10.....Istanbul (TK)
23:50.....London, Beirut (BA)
01:25.....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:15.....Aqaba (RJ)
06:20.....Beirut (RJ)
09:15.....Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00.....Tunis (RJ)
11:30.....Rome (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:35.....Athens (RJ)
12:15.....London (RJ)
12:20.....Jeddah (add) (RJ)
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17:20.....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
20:00 Abu Dhabi, Jakarta (add) (RJ)
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20:30.....Jeddah (RJ)
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21:00.....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00.....New Delhi (RJ)
22:00.....Damascus (RJ)
22:00.....Jeddah (RJ)
22:10.....Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:45.....Bangkok (RJ)
22:45.....Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

06:30.....London (KJ)
07:00.....Beirut (ME)
07:15.....Tel Aviv (LY)
07:35.....Damascus, London (BA)
13:50.....Doha (GF)
16:35.....Moscow (SU)
21:25.....Cairo (MS)

Royal Wing (RW) Flights

09:50 Aqaba (RW) (departing from Marka Airport)
20:30.....Aqaba (RW)

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Arr. Amman.....5.00 p.m. every Sunday

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Banana (imported).....800/500
Cabbage.....80/40
Carrot.....280/150
Cauliflower.....160/140
Cucumber (large).....120/70
Cucumber (small).....180/150
Eggplant.....120/60
Garlic.....750/550
Grapes.....340/300
Lemon.....380/200
Marrow (large).....120/100
Marrow (small).....180/150
Onion (green).....220/120
Onion (dry).....150/80
Orange.....550/400
Pear.....650/500
Pepper (hot).....250/180
Pepper (sweet).....200/120
Potato.....310/180
Spinach.....180/100
Spring Bean.....400/300
Tomato.....180/140

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PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES EUROPEAN MINISTER OF COOPERATION: Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday received the European Minister of Cooperation and Finnish Minister of Trade Ole Norrback along with Jordanian Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb, Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Norrback reviewed Jordanian-Finnish relations in all fields, the Jordanian-European partnership and issues of common concern. They also discussed hindrances to the Middle East peace process and the need to urge Israel to abide by its agreements with the Palestinians (Petra photo)



Suspect in children's murder retracts confession

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mazen Hani Masri, 34, who, in September, confessed to killing his two children, Saturday entered a plea of not guilty to all charges, claiming that his statements were fabricated.

"All confessions (in front of the criminal prosecution) were a fantasy of my own mind, and I will state my reasons for these false statements later on," he told a packed court room. Mr. Masri is standing trial at the Criminal Court on charges of poisoning his children, Hanin, eight, and Hani, six, in their Abu Onziah Housing Complex apartment in Shmeisani on Sept. 11.

He faces two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted murder by Criminal Court prosecution.

Mr. Masri, appeared pale and tense behind the bars of his confinement cage in the high-security courtroom.

As the court clerk enumerated details of his children's death, taken from the prosecution charge sheet, the defendant's eyes filled with tears. Defence Attorney Ahmad Najdawi subsequently asked the court to place Mr. Masri under medical observation to determine whether his client was mentally fit to stand trial.

However, the court tribunal, presided over by Judges Abdul Rahman Tawfiq, Ismael Hmouz and Mifteh Moubaidin, rejected Mr. Najdawi's request, maintaining their conviction that the defendant was mentally stable.

"Mr. Masri... was perfectly capable of comprehending charges against

him and answered our questions [comprehensibly]," Judge Tawfiq stated in explanation of the stipulated refusal.

Following the conclusion of the 30-minute session, Mr. Masri asked the court's permission to avow his wife's innocence in terms of any media accusation published against her following his confession.

"I assure everyone that my wife is faithful, devoted, and loyal, and that all accusations either voiced or published are false," Mr. Masri told the court.

Mr. Masri was referring to rumours which surfaced following his arrest and confession on Sept. 25, suggesting that he was not the biological father of Hanin and Hani and nor was he even able to father progeny and gave this as a possible motive for the children's death.

Criminal Court Prosecutor Abdul Aziz Rawashdeh, in a recent interview with the Jordan Times, also dismissed these rumours, stating that medical tests established that Mr. Masri was, indeed, capable of procreation.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, Mr. Masri began to evidence familial difficulties three months after his 1987 marriage.

He told investigators that he faced financial constraints as well, subsequent to the birth of his second child, Hani.

According to the charge sheet, in his confession, the defendant blamed his wife for financial difficulties, claiming that she was "extravagant and refused to help him in his business" which he had established in 1991.

The prosecution cited "jealousy" as a further motive for the children's

murder. This, they explained, stemmed from his spouse's reportedly paying more attention to his children than to him and the children's alleged preference for their mother.

"Mr. Masri decided to get rid of his children in order to live alone with his wife," the prosecution charged.

The two children were found collapsed in their apartment by their mother, Hani Hamoudah, upon her return home after giving her husband a ride to work in the early morning.

Ms. Hamoudah rushed her children to a nearby hospital where Hani was declared dead on arrival, while Hanin died shortly afterwards.

Forensic experts detected cyanide and determined that this toxin was responsible for the children's death.

In his confession, Mr. Masri told investigators that he purchased the cyanide pills during a two-week business trip to Canada.

He also stated that on the morning of Sept. 11, he gave his two children the two cyanide pills, instead of the vitamin pills which he routinely administered.

A close friend of the family Saturday told the Jordan Times that Ms. Hamoudah, who originally filed the case against her husband, may drop charges.

If these charges are dropped and if Mr. Masri is convicted the verdict may be reduced by half.

The court tribunal set, Dec. 4 to hear the testimony of pathologist Mohammed Hadidi's as well as other prosecution witnesses in the case.

Two subpoenaed for slander, inaccuracy in reporting

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A former weekly tabloid editor and a reporter have been called to stand trial at the Amman Court of First Instance in the next few weeks on charges of slander and inaccuracy in reporting.

Usamah Ermemin, a reporter at the weekly tabloid Al Bilad, was Saturday called for questioning by Prosecutor General Jamal Zougby's office after the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) filed a complaint regarding an article published in the Aug. 28, 1996 issue of Al Bilad.

Khalid Kasasbeh, former editor of the weekly newspaper, failed to appear at Mr. Zougby's office as, according to sources, he migrated to the United States.

Charges pressed against Messrs. Kasasbeh and Ermemin include lacking objectivity and honesty in news reporting, publishing individuals and tarnishing the reputation and dignity of public employees and their offices.

The news item in question, according to Mr. Zougby, was entitled "A mysterious disease is attacking JPRC employees," and which stated that

thousands of JPRC employees were living in terror following the outbreak of a deadly disease which claimed the lives of three employees.

The article further charged that the environment surrounding the company was filled with a deadly nuclear radiation and responsible for these deaths as well as an additional 46 employees who were also suffering from the "mysterious disease."

The newspaper claimed that the company's administration was preparing itself for a press conference to clarify the situation.

According to Mr. Zougby, the defendant, Mr.

Ermemin, was unable to provide any source or evidence to support his allegations in the publication.

On the other hand, Mr. Zougby maintained, the JPRC presented the prosecution with the proper documents which indicated that the company's health department possessed no records of employees in treatment for any disease related to their working environment.

He said that the prosecution has completed its investigations and the case was transferred to the First Instance Court where a date will be set within few days to start trial procedures.

German delegation discusses agricultural production

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat Saturday thanked Germany for its continued assistance in financing and implementing the Kingdom's development programmes and further stated hopes that Bonn will maintain its aid to Jordan especially in the agricultural sector.

During a meeting with a visiting German delegation, led by Herbert Zahlmann, a senior official in the Federal German Ministry for Economic and Technical Cooperation, Dr. Shneikat said that Jordan hopes that Germany will help in its quest for an increased food production as well as the modernisation of farming systems and improved utilisation of natural resources.

Mr. Zahlmann, who heads for the West Bank Sunday, joined with Dr. Shneikat in a general appraisal of the progress and issues pertaining to German-Jordanian agricultural cooperation.

Through the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the German government has provided the agricultural sector with more than \$25 million worth of loans and grants as well as technical assistance.

This assistance covers agricultural extension services, management of water resources, pest removal, agricultural engineering and veterinary training and provision of consultancy services.

Mr. Zahlmann was received Thursday by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and expressed his approval of Jordan's success in implementing the economic reform programme.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Till We Meet Again" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

* "Special show and sale of Christmas crafts at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Alaydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 644555), until Dec. 31.

EXHIBITIONS

* Photography exhibition by Lily Bundak entitled "Images of the Arab World" at the Jordanian Construction Contractors Association, exhibition hall, Sweifieh, until December 1.
* Works by Arab artists in Spain Zafer Adnan, Issam Ta'ii, and Hakan Sa'di at Orfali Art Gallery, 11mm Utchina, until Dec. 3.

Activists regret increase in cigarette usage

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Anti-smoking activists are protesting against authorities, who, they claim, are not enforcing anti-smoking legislation.

According to the President of the Jordanian Society for Smoking Prevention Mohammed Shraim, smoking is still not banned in public places in most developing countries and it is the children who suffer the most grievous consequences.

Jordan was one of the first Arab countries to enact laws for public health protection against ill effects caused by smoking. Dr. Shraim said, adding that such legislation was ratified in 1977 and is still not sufficiently observed.

Many countries are currently fighting smoking by forbidding it in most public places and raising tobacco taxes.

Thailand and Singapore are considered smoke-free zones with fines of up to \$50 for those who smoke in public areas.

In America and Western Europe, it is obligatory upon production of any cigarette pack that it include, on the cover, a regulatory-size warning written in bold letters.

Dr. Shraim stated that while it is fairly easy to tell adults about the dangers of smoking, children are harder to convince, especially when they see their parents, teachers and friends smoke.

He said that his research has shown that most children start smoking from

ages 9-12 due to what he terms "unintentional encouragement" to partake in the habit.

Despite years of anti-smoking warnings and campaigns, in the Arab world, the percentage of smokers is increasing by an annual 1-2 per cent while in the United States and Europe tobacco use is decreasing by the same percentage, a WHO study showed.

The study said that people over 15 years of age in the Arab world increased their cigarette intake from an annual 1,150 to 1,400 cigarettes in 1995, while in the West the amount decreased from 2,800 to 2,400 cigarettes per person during the same time period.

Smoking is considered a primary addiction followed by heroin, crack (a more potent form of cocaine, usually smoked) and cocaine, alcohol and tranquilisers, yet there is evidence that once one quits smoking, benefits are immediate and that those who manage to quit before developing serious complications avoid many mortal risks associated with tobacco use.

Cigarette smoking is responsible for 35 per cent of all cancer cases and 50% of teenagers who commence smoking today can project an early mortality due, in great part, to their habit.

A 1995 Jordanian study demonstrated that 28 per cent of the population smokes, 48 per cent of whom are male and 10 per cent female, while in the United States and Western Europe the average of

women who smoke has been shown to be slightly higher than that of men.

Studies have indicated that the rationale behind the disparity could be attributed to the linkage of smoking and slenderness in the minds of many as young women embark on deadly diets of cigarettes in pursuit of unrealistic physical ideals.

Although as of yet there is no evidence which substantiates the theory that smoking has any direct role in weight reduction, smokers do tend to weigh less than non-smokers as nicotine suppresses the appetite mechanism and smoke inhalation increases metabolism.

Studies suggest that the average weight gain upon smoking cessation is 3-6 kilos, yet the health risks of continuing the habit is reportedly equal to health risks of gaining more than 45 kilograms.

Millions of dollars are spent on advertising in Europe and America to attract new recruits and certain studies have alleged that cigarette companies are responsible for the deaths of 100,000 customers each year.

In Columbus' voyage to what was then termed the New World, he saw Native Americans burn tobacco leaves and inhale the smoke and thus he brought leaves back with him to Europe from where it was introduced globally.

Dr. Shraim stated that in Jordan, smoking costs the society an estimated annual JD 500 million, 76 per cent of which must be covered by the government.

Future quality of Kingdom's water supply questioned — professor

By Christina Schlegl
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The quality of Jordanian water resources is degrading rapidly, Elias Salameh, Professor of Hydrology at the University of Jordan told the Jordan Times, presenting his recently published study on the same topic.

"The rapid degradation of the country's water quality and the resultant impact on the environment, economy and future generations' resource base are the subjects of Dr. Salameh's recent book, "Water Quality Degradation in Jordan," published in cooperation with the German non-governmental organisation (NGO) Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

"The book," according to Dr. Salameh, "discusses the degradation of Jordan's water quality as well as economic losses due to the degradation of the same whether the losses are on a public or private level."

"It is not the water quantity, but its worsening quality that will bring us to our knees," the author stated in the book's preface.

This fact, Dr. Salameh said, is not only due to active pollution by different sources such as industrialisation or irrigation projects, but is also a result of over-exploitation of aquifers leading to their salinisation.

According to Dr. Salameh, an estimated 275 million cubic metres of ground water in Jordan are annually renewable, but the Kingdom is currently extracting more than 550 million cubic metres per annum, which means a shortage of at least 275 million cubic metres.

This circumstance, he explained, leads to the over-exploitation of aquifers and thus causes salinisation. Jordan's drinking water quality, in general, the author said, is good but during interrupted pumping, leaking

pipes allow substances to enter the system and contaminate water supply facilities.

One of the main alleviating measures suggested in the book is the reduction of water used for irrigation in the Kingdom's highlands, where the agricultural output, according to the author, does not justify the water usage.

"If the water situation in the country remains at its current level, we will very soon have salinised aquifers and polluted water which cannot be utilised for anything," Dr. Salameh admonished.

The Jafr and Dhuleil area, he said, are already facing such a problem. He cited an experience in the Azraq district, where aquifers were depleted and the remaining sources were salinated.

Steps currently being taken by the government to prevent this sort of situation are: the prohibition of drilling new wells and the introduction of a fee for industries which use ground water.

Moreover, the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) is conducting a project to measure discharge stemming from different wells.

As the use of water for irrigation purposes is still free of charge, Dr. Salameh suggested considering drastic steps such as curbing irrigation either directly or through high water prices to stop the misuse of irrigation water, stating that approximately 630 to 650 million cubic metres of water are being used annually for this purpose.

This number, the author said, can be reduced without jeopardising the agricultural sector.

"Regional (agricultural) projects in the highlands, which mainly serve local communities with agricultural outputs, should remain as they are but the efficiency of water usage has to be improved," Dr. Salameh main-

tained.

As an example of greater efficiency in water usage, he cited the current project at AL al Bayt University, where treated wastewater in combination with accumulated rainwater, is used for irrigation.

The project began over two years ago and is, according to the author, a very successful example of water pollution management efficiency.

Water pollution prevention aims at the attainment of sustained use of water resources, satisfying the basic needs of the population for a clean, adequate water supply and the achievement of an environmentally healthy situation in all that concerns water extraction, use, treatment of waste water and its reuse.

However, water degradation is not only a "health" problem but an economic one as well.

The dilemma can be economically approached by evaluating economic losses due to the degradation of water resources or their complete loss; i.e., the cost incurred to reduce or eliminate degradation causes (for example treating pollution at the source) or by calculating the cost of damages due to degradation of water resources (decreasing productivity of irrigation water due to increasing water salinity).

Summarising the conclusions of his book, Dr. Salameh stated "if we continue with the over-exploitation of aquifers and the pollution of national water resources our ground water will deplete and degrade, so that what remains will not be satisfactory to meet the Jordanian people's requirements."

The situation, he concluded, is getting worse every year and a crisis situation will arise if this degradation is intensified by a drought year."

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Serb opposition keeps pressure on Milosevic

BELGRADE (R) — Opposition leaders and students kept up their campaign to oust Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic Saturday with a fresh round of protest marches in Belgrade.

But Mr. Milosevic, accused by the opposition Zajedno (Together) Coalition of robbing them of victory in local elections this month which would have given them control of the capital and other cities, refused to be drawn into public debate.

Large reserve forces of police were marshalled in Belgrade, but in line with the authorities' strategy of not provoking trouble did not interfere with the march, which was being followed by a protest rally in the city centre.

A rerun of the vote in some election wards where

the initial outcome favourable to Zajedno was annulled was due Sunday.

Opposition leaders did not have high expectations that the new vote would go their way and concentrated on keeping the daily demonstrations rolling.

They upped the stakes by threatening to boycott parliament and local councils unless Serbia's parliament, controlled by Mr. Milosevic's Socialists, cancelled the disputed election results when it meets Tuesday.

Local election authorities under the Socialists' control stripped Zajedno of its majorities in most of the towns it won in polling on Nov. 17, citing unspecified "irregularities."

Political analysts say a boycott of the Serbian and Yugoslav federal parlia-

ments by the opposition would be unlikely to affect national politics substantially.

Mr. Milosevic already rules with an authoritarian hand, using the parliament as a rubber stamp to confirm his orders.

But diplomats said the move would further damage his credibility as a legitimate national leader both at home and abroad.

Since Mr. Milosevic signed the Dayton Peace Agreement which ended the war in Bosnia last year, he has worked to recast his image as a peacemaker and guarantor of stability in the Balkans and see the last of international sanctions lifted.

In the latest confrontation, the West has warned him to respect democracy if he

wants to rump Yugoslavia, which comprises Serbia and Montenegro, to return to the international community.

His state media has portrayed the opposition coalition as outlaws and provocateurs. Diplomats said Mr. Milosevic, whose police force has kept a low profile, was betting the demonstration campaign across the country would run out of steam.

Privately Zajedno officials agree that they will probably not win any substantial victory, but insist their tactics have uncovered cracks in his power.

"We have torn off his mask in front of the world to show him as he really is — a small-time Balkan dictator unable to bear the slightest defeat," Zajedno leader Zoran Djindjic said.

Croats expel Muslims, Serbs in Mostar

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Croats are violating the Dayton Peace Accord by expelling Muslims and Serbs from their homes in west Mostar, including one recent victim who is an elderly, handicapped woman, the United Nations said Friday.

Since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in December last year, there have been 65 evictions from Croat-held west Mostar, said Kris Janowski, spokesman for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"There have been three evictions over the past five days. One is particularly appalling — the eviction of a 65-year-old woman who is handicapped. She can hardly walk. She needs crutches," Mr. Janowski said.

The woman was ousted from her flat by three men in military uniform who broke in on Nov. 25, carried her to a car and drove her to a square near the Muslim part of Mostar where they dumped her on the street.

Unable to walk, the woman stood on her crutches until she was assisted by a passerby.

On Nov. 27, a 60-year-old couple was evicted and the man beaten up by men in uniform.

"This is totally appalling situation considering that it is happening a year after Dayton," Mr. Janowski said.

"Our interventions with the authorities have produced very little result. We usually get lip service from them but nothing ever happens."

Mostar, the largest city in western Bosnia, remains ethnically partitioned, despite European Union efforts to knit the community back together with administrative

support and 264 million marks (\$172 million) in reconstruction aid.

While the main contest in the 43-month Bosnian war was between Muslims and Serbs, Muslims and Croats also fought a bitter side-show battle for 11 months in 1993-94.

Mostar was the epicentre of that conflict, which saw Croats seize most of Mostar on the west bank of the Neretva River and expel non-Croats from their territory.

Most Serbs fled to Serb-held parts of Bosnia but many Muslims found themselves trapped on the east bank of the Neretva, which was devastated by months of heavy artillery, mortar and tank fire.

The United States brokered a 1994 Muslim-Croat Federation Agreement which ended open warfare between the two ethnic fac-

tions but failed to heal the wounds of their conflict.

The U.N. reports about 800 Serbs and 3,000 Muslims remain in west Mostar today under difficult circumstances.

"The Serbs and Muslims in west Mostar are second-class citizens. They can't get work and they essentially sit in their apartments for fear of losing them — someone breaking in, changing the locks and taking over the apartment," Mr. Janowski said.

By comparison, the 400 Serbs and 200 Croats in Muslim-controlled east Mostar lead what Mr. Janowski described as "fairly normal lives."

In a related incident a Muslim house in west Mostar was damaged by an explosion Thursday and the owner was slightly injured, a U.N. police spokesman reported Friday.

Taliban reiterate conditional readiness for ceasefire

KABUL (AFP) — The Taliban militia are still ready to accept a ceasefire if their conditions were met, a senior Taliban official said Saturday.

"If they (anti-Taliban alliance) accept a true Islamic government and the exchange of prisoners-of-war, then we are ready for negotiations," the acting minister of information and culture Mullah Amir Khan Muttaqi told AFP.

The anti-Taliban alliance has suffered over the past week a major territorial loss after being pushed back at least 15 kilometres from their previous frontlines.

While vowing that the

Taliban wanted to take the whole of Afghanistan, Mr. Muttaqi offered the olive branch of peace, saying the fundamentalist movement supported U.N. efforts for an Afghan ceasefire.

A U.N.-sponsored ceasefire might be readily acceptable in principle by all warring factions but the difficulty lies in the fact that neither side will accept the conditions of the other, analysts said.

By a true Islamic government the Taliban clearly mean their own rule which will be unacceptable to the anti-Taliban alliance whose own demand for demilitarisation of Kabul is rejected

by the Islamic militia.

The anti-Taliban alliance is composed of ex-Kabul government troops commanded by Ahmad Shah Masood and the Uzbek forces of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

A highly successful Taliban offensive over the past week has pushed this rival coalition force onto their back-foot and strong defensive lines now seem untenable for Mr. Masood and Gen. Dostum, observers said.

Mr. Muttaqi said the frontlines, some distance forward of the so-called old road village of Kalakan 40

kilometres north of Kabul, "were calm" Saturday along with the frontlines near the Bagram Air Base, held by the anti-Taliban coalition.

Bagram Air Base, 50 kilometres north of Kabul, lies just off the new road, the second of the two north-bound highways exiting Kabul, where infantry fighting has been less intense than on the old road.

Mr. Muttaqi reported continued fighting in western Badghis province.

An offensive by Gen. Dostum's forces in Badghis was reportedly pushed back by the Taliban but no details of the fighting were given.

Pressure mounts on Africans to move on U.N. chief

UNITED NATIONS (R) — African states have come under increasing pressure to respond to the U.S. veto against Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and come up with other candidates for the U.N. post.

Diplomats said several Security Council members did not believe the United States would change its mind on the issue and wanted some movement from the Africans quickly.

After another deadlocked Friday Security Council meeting, its president, Nugroho Wisnurti of Indonesia, said he was asking Cameroon, as chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, when it "would be ready to inform the Council members concerning the results of consultations on the matter."

He said he was reminding Cameroon's U.N. delegation that the General Assembly, which has to approve a decision by the Security Council, wanted to adjourn by Dec. 17.

The Council has agreed to give priority to candidates from Africa on the grounds that if Dr. Ghali is denied the second term given to his predecessors,

he should be followed by another African.

It has been deadlocked since Nov. 19 when the United States cast the sole negative vote in the 15-member body.

Dr. Ghali's five year term expires on Dec. 31.

But Botswana's U.N. ambassador, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, said that "the most dangerous thing you can do is elect a secretary-general in a hurry."

"We have said that consultations are taking place on the African continent among 53 countries. And you don't expect them to consult in one week, or agree," he added.

Wisnurti also told reporters: "I understand the African countries require sufficient time to do so, because they are 53." But, he said, "There are other members of the United Nations that really are waiting and now they are getting impatient about this process."

He will be replaced as Council president next week by Francesco Paolo Fulci of Italy, whose government is pushing for a compromise of keeping Dr. Ghali in office for

about two years. Diplomats said Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi wrote President Bill Clinton a letter two weeks ago urging a compromise, but had received no reply.

Previously, French President Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Indonesian President Suharto all wrote to Mr. Clinton asking him to change his mind on Dr. Ghali. It was not known if they received a reply or if they mentioned a compromise.

But U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said such a deal was out of the question.

"The United States position has been very clear from the very beginning," she said. "We have said we need a new secretary-general and it is our position that no compromise formula is acceptable."

Washington is unable to back openly any candidate because of anger against Washington vetoing Dr. Ghali for his alleged lack of enthusiasm for reform of the world body.

But a more key reason

is Republican opposition to the United Nations, thereby reducing U.S. influence in the world body because of its \$1.4 billion debt, payments depend on approval by the Republican-dominated Congress.

Behind the scenes the contest appears to be turning into an Anglo-French poker game. France has made it clear that if Dr. Ghali has no chance it wants a "Francophone," presumed to mean an African from a French-speaking country.

So far the only Francophone name on an informal list is Amara Essy, the Ivory Coast's foreign minister who served as president of the General Assembly in 1994-1995. But he spoke little English during his stay in New York, including taking an interpreter to informal lunches with journalists.

Therefore, diplomats believe a summit between France and African states, mainly Francophone, in the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou on Dec. 5 may be crucial in revealing Paris' hand.



An elderly Belgrade woman climbs onto a box to take pictures of students marching in protest through the city centre Friday. Serbian students launched another day of street protests in Belgrade over what they say is massive electoral fraud (Reuters photo)

Comoros frees passengers held after hijacking

MORONI (R) — The authorities in the Comoro Islands Saturday released two passengers detained for a week for questioning about the hijacking of the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767.

The passengers, Kenyan businessman Michael Odenyo and Djiboutian trade unionist Souleimane Ahmad Mohammad, survived when the plane crashed into the sea on Nov. 23 but other passengers then

erroneously identified them as hijackers.

"I do not know really what has been more painful — the crash or the incarceration," Mr. Mohammad told Reuters Saturday.

"But we have not been physically tortured," he added.

"They are exonerated and no charge is held against them," public prosecutor Cheikh Salim told Reuters. The passengers will leave

the Comoros later Saturday on an Emirates flight to Dubai.

Mr. Salim said the co-pilot of the plane, Yonas Mekuria, had managed to identify the bodies of two of the three hijackers among the 125 people killed in the crash. Fifty people survived the accident.

There was no immediate word on when the Comoran authorities would release the bodies to their relatives.

They have said they plan to keep them until all have been identified.

Officials sources said Saturday that the Comoros, a small archipelago state in the Indian Ocean, had turned down U.S. and British requests for access to the flight recorders. The government is waiting for advice on the subject from international civil aviation authorities.

Zaire rebels reportedly drive refugees toward Rwanda

SAKE, Zaire (AP) — Zairian rebels fired assault weapons to force more than 40,000 Rwandan refugees out of their squalid encampment in eastern Zaire and onto a long march home.

Refugees gave different accounts of the gunfire that broke out near Minova, 65 kilometres southwest of the border town of Goma.

Some said they saw bodies along the road while others said no one was injured.

"They started shooting early this morning and told us to start walking to Rwanda," said one man too frightened to give his name. He showed up in the village of Sake, 15 kilometres west of Goma.

He said tens of thousands of refugees were on their way down from the surrounding hills. They fled there five weeks ago to escape fighting between rebels and former Hutu soldiers at the U.N. camps where they have lived for 2 1/2 years.

The refugees were among hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutus who came to Zaire in 1994 because they feared retaliation for a Hutu-led massacre of half a million minority Tutsis in Rwanda.

Canadian Lt. Gen. Maurice Baril, leader of a proposed international force to get aid to the refugees, said Thursday he would send an unarmed Canadian foot patrol to Zaire to help aid workers search for an estimated 100,000 other refugees still in the forests.

Ambassadors from 14 nations committed their

nations Friday to a humanitarian mission to deliver aid to the refugees. In all, about 20 countries are expected to participate in the mission, expected to be a scaled-down version of the military deployment proposed earlier this month before hundreds of thousands of refugees began making it out of Zaire on their own.

Friday's shooting appears to be part of an established pattern of rebels firing warning shots to herd refugees toward Rwanda.

The Zairian rebels, who want to oust President Mobutu Sese Seko, began fighting Rwandan Hutu extremists and Zairian soldiers five weeks ago.

Friday, the rebels refused to allow aid workers or journalists past Sake, citing security problems. But one rebel soldier said troops had been sent to Minova to march the refugees north to Rwanda along Lake Kivu, which forms part of the border.

Aid workers set up water and medical stations along the route from Sake to Goma and the Rwandan border. Doctors reported that most of the refugees were in good health and there were no signs of injuries.

"We do not have enough trucks to drive them all to the border, so most will walk and the vulnerable will be driven," said Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the U.N. Refugee agency.

About 8,000 crossed into Rwanda Friday, and the rest camped along the road for the night.

More than 15,000 refugees had camped in Minova

in filthy conditions. Aid workers were concerned about disease if the refugees remained there. Rebel leaders have insisted that "no new camps be established in Zaire and said the refugees must return to Rwanda."

Driving alongside the refugees, aid workers spoke on loudspeakers in Kinyarwanda, the language of Rwanda, urging them to continue walking for Rwanda and not to stop. But many appeared very weary under the broiling midday sun.

"These refugees are in remarkable shape, their resilience is incredible," said Mr. Wilkinson. "But these may be the strong ones, and we know that many more remain in the forest where we can't reach them. They are the big question mark."

Canada is proposing dropping relief supplies to the refugees who have not yet made it out of Zaire. The United States has expressed reservations about the aid drops, saying Hutu militants might seize the food before it gets to hungry refugees.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy said Friday that the rebels had agreed to the aid drops, but only as a last resort.

The multinational mission initially was envisioned as a military deployment to protect aid workers and refugees in eastern Zaire. Events on the ground in Zaire overtook planning for the force, as fighting unexpectedly sent hundreds of thousands of refugees hurrying home to Rwanda.

Burundi's neighbours and some other African states imposed strict sanctions in July after Tutsi military leader Pierre Buyoya overthrew the country's democratically elected Hutu President, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya.

WFP said the sanctions committee had cleared 2,545 tonnes of food a month to replenish WFP's existing food stocks in Burundi, which are nearly exhausted.

The agency will take the food by barge from the Tanzanian port of Kigoma on Lake Tanganyika or by truck across land from Tanzania, it said.

U.N. agency: Burundi conflict spreading

NAIROBI (R) — The conflict in Burundi, overshadowed by the fighting in neighbouring Zaire, is spreading rapidly and causing widespread population displacements, a U.N. agency said Saturday.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said the regional committee of east African governments checking sanctions against Burundi has given the agency clearance to take in enough food to feed 130,000 people.

WFP needs the food to cope with a rapidly increasing number of internally displaced people and of refugees returning from Zaire, it said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

Clashes between rebels and government forces have displaced tens of thousands of Burundians and 80,000 of them, twice as many as a few weeks ago, are now receiving food aid, it added. About 50,000 refugees have returned from Zaire.

"The conflict in Burundi, which has been somewhat overshadowed by the problems in eastern Zaire, is spreading rapidly and causing massive population displacements," it said.

About 150,000 people have died in the past three years in a civil war pitting Burundi's Tutsi-led government against rebels drawn from the majority Hutu tribe.

Burundi's neighbours and some other African states imposed strict sanctions in July after Tutsi military leader Pierre Buyoya overthrew the country's democratically elected Hutu President, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya.

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NASA team said to be working for manned flight to Mars

LONDON (R) — The U.S. space agency NASA is working on plans to send six astronauts to Mars within eight years of getting the political go-ahead for a manned mission, the scientist who is running the project said Friday.

Eric McHenry told the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) that he was put in charge of the work after NASA announced earlier this year that evidence of traces of primitive life had been found in a meteorite from Mars.

Mr. McHenry told the BBC's Newswatch programme this was vital because it might prove impossible for robots sent from earth to answer the key question of whether there was life on Mars.

NASA is due to launch a pathfinder mission Monday designed to take a Mars rover to the planet.

"We believe that there will come a point, and earlier probably than later, in which we will want to send humans to the surface of Mars to extend the scientific investigations that the rovers and robots will have performed," Mr. McHenry said.

"Our goal is to do enough technology work that when

we are asked to initiate a human programme we could have humans on the surface of Mars within eight years or less," he said in an interview at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Mr. McHenry, who said he believes low-level microbial life exists below the martian surface, said humans would be needed if it became necessary to drill to find prove this either way.

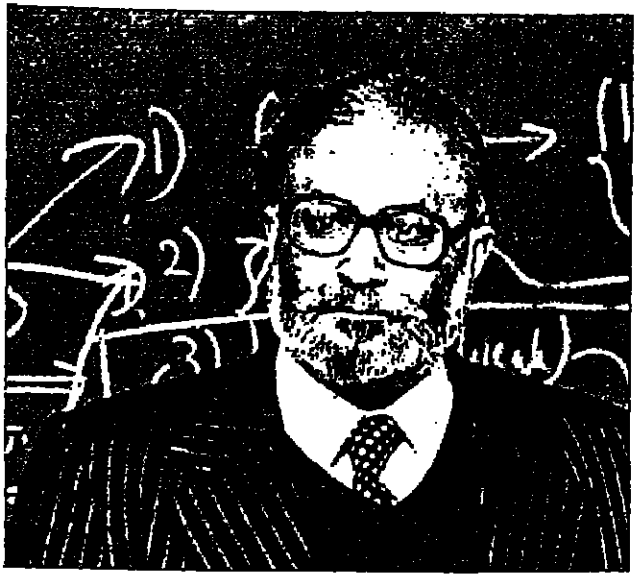
Mr. McHenry said the real challenge was to shave the cost of sending a manned mission to earth's nearest neighbour in the solar system.

Abdul Salam — a scientist of 'remarkable vision and outstanding energy'

Professor Abdul Salam, theoretical physicist and Nobel laureate, died on November 14 aged 70. He was born on January 29, 1926.

THE DEATH of Abdul Salam leaves the world of theoretical physics without one of its most distinguished and respected members. Born in Jhang, Pakistan, he was soon to display the outstanding creative ability that was such a consistent feature of his professional career. Indeed, his first published scientific paper was produced at the early age of 17. Undergraduate and postgraduate degrees followed from Government College, Lahore, and from the University of Cambridge.

The focus of his research work was quantum field theory, with particular emphasis on the long-term



Abdul Salam

goal of finding a unified approach to the fundamental forces at work in the worlds of nuclear and sub-nuclear physics. In the 1960s Salam was closely involved with the attempts

to construct a theoretically coherent account of the "strong" interactions that bind together the constituents of nuclei. The mathematical techniques on which he worked

at that time provided the foundations of the developments that followed — a sustained programme of research culminating in his construction of a theory that unified the electric and magnetic forces with the "weak" nuclear force responsible for the radioactive decay of elementary particles. The dramatic confirmation of this theory by experiments at the European particle-accelerator facility CERN led to his sharing the 1979 Nobel Prize for Physics with the American physicists Sheldon Glashow and Steven Weinberg. This critical theoretical development became the central component of what became known as the "standard model" of the electromagnetic and nuclear forces.

The incorporation of the gravitational field into this unified picture is a notoriously difficult problem and

it is no surprise that this is another area to which Salam turned his formidable attention. The solution of this particular issue remains elusive but, working with his long-term collaborator John Strathdee, Salam developed some of the main tools for handling the "superfields" that later became a major ingredient in the development of superstring theory — currently one of the most promising approaches to the problem of adding gravity to the list of unified forces.

In addition to his brilliant intellectual gifts, Salam was a man of remarkable vision and outstanding energy who played a major role in developing science throughout the world. Of particular significance was his success in 1964 in persuading the Italian government and the United Nations to found a research

institute for theoretical physics in Trieste, Italy, the prime mission of which was to provide a base for young scientists from the developing countries to carry out research with each other and with visitors from the West.

Salam was the director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics from 1964 to 1993, and it is a striking tribute to his charismatic and energetic personality that the centre survived, and indeed flourished, notwithstanding the numerous political difficulties that inevitably accompany an international project of this kind.

Abdul Salam was a member of the Ahmadiyah branch of the Islamic religion and would sometimes lead prayers for fellow Muslims visiting the centre in Trieste. Although his membership of this particular sect caused some diffi-

culties in his relationships with his home country, he never forgot his natural affiliation with the developing nations. He was also deeply concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons and served on many high-level committees involved in the promotion of international peace and collaboration and in the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Salam's outstanding scientific and political achievements were recognised in many ways in addition to his receipt of the Nobel Prize. He was elected to fellowship of the Royal Society at an early age and received its Copley Medal in 1990. He was elected a member of scientific academies and societies in 24 countries and received a large number of honorary degrees. He was made an honorary KBE in 1989. He received nine

medals for his contribution towards peace and the promotion of international collaboration.

On a personal level, Salam was a striking man. Any young scientist who had the privilege of working closely with him invariably found it to be an exhilarating and character-forming experience. In addition to his great intellectual gifts, Salam had a genuine sense of humour, including that rarest of qualities of being able to laugh at himself. A warm twinkle would often accompany his more unorthodox suggestions as to how exactly the foundation of physics should be revolutionised.

Abdul Salam was twice married. He had one son and three daughters by his first marriage and a son and a daughter by the second.

The Times

The Union Museum — living chronicle of a Romanian ideal

By Dorin Iancu

IT MAY be called a museum, but in fact it is a living chronicle. It is a big hall, with vaults supported by columns and pillars, as in a temple where, on walls and in glass cases, the Romanian ideal, the Union, is expressed. An entire range of buildings in Alba Iulia was dedicated to this ideal. From the Coronation Cathedral to the museum, the structures are those of Romanian folk architecture whose details can be found in monumental art.

Lying in the heart of Transylvania, Alba Iulia was perfect for the task. The Dacian fortress built two thousand years ago was called Apulonia. Later the Roman conquerors established there one of Dacia's greatest centres, slightly changing its Dacian name into Apulum. In the early Middle Ages, the city was called Balgrad, a Slav toponym meaning the White City. Then the name was turned into Alba Iulia, of Latin stock.

The ideal of ancient Dacian inhabitants, the "Great Union", was finally achieved in 1918, after a shorter lived union was made possible by Prince Michael the Brave in

1599. The museum celebrates this important moment in the life of Romanians through documents and photographs, all proof of the nation's will to fulfill the great union act under perfectly democratic circumstances. Exhibited are the six volumes containing the Union documents, bound in leather, in the national colours, as well as the photographs of the Grand National Assembly and papers signed by the great statesmen that made the Union possible.

It took, though, two millennia of hard work, fight and hope before this significant event took place to mark the history of this people living north of the Danube, in the Carpathian Mountains.

In the museum halls history unfolds itself in dramatic snapshots, from the Roman and Dacian Roman lapidary to the tokens of the modern eras. There are two memorable highlights: Michael the Brave, the Wallachian prince (1593-1600), entering Alba Iulia in 1599, when the first political Union of the Romanians took place; and the coronation of Ferdinand I, at Alba Iulia, as king of Romanians.

According to the Union

Act, read by Vasile Goldis, "The Union of Transylvania with the mother country is now achieved for centuries to come."

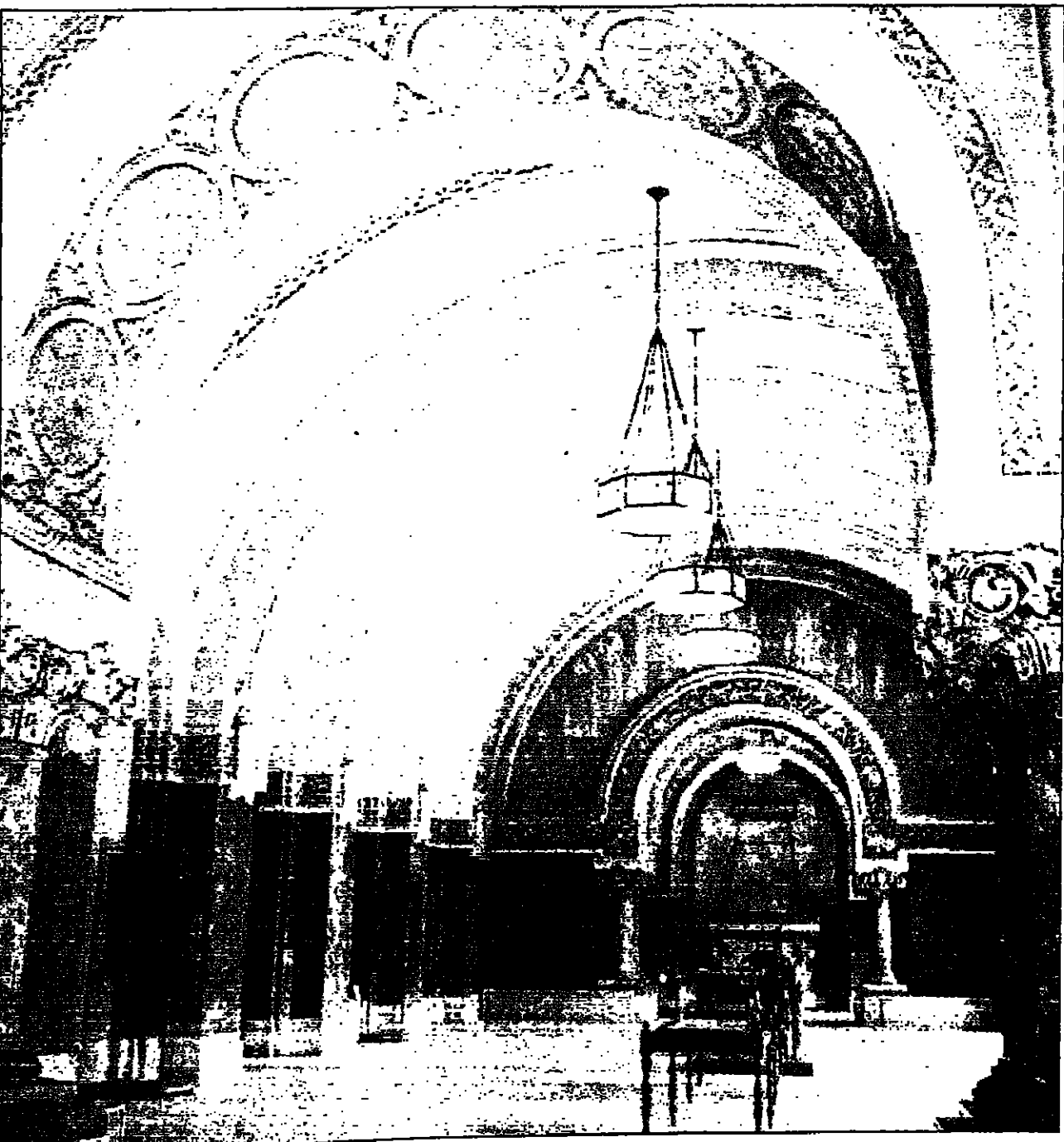
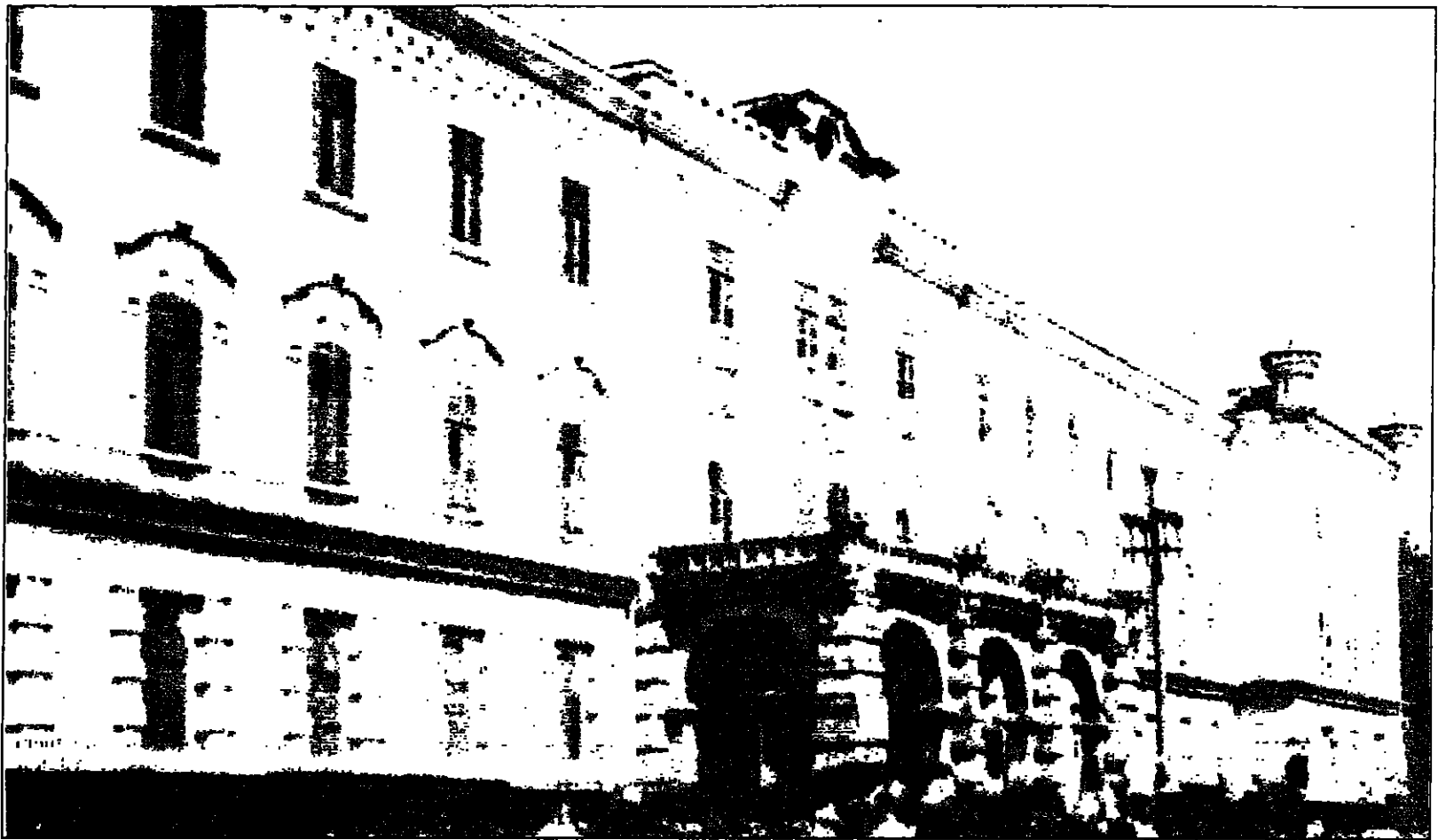
Exhibits stand proof of the chroniclers' and the people's endeavours, of the steadfastness and resolve of the Romanians to be united as one people, with one national identity.

The fortress — Vauban type, built by the Hapsburg Empire on the place of the old Dacian, Roman and feudal cities — reminds of the martyrdom of Horea, Closca and Crisan, the heads of the great peasant uprising of 1784. That revolt, apart from national claims, had an amazingly visionary programme, heralding that of the 1879 French Revolution.

In Alba Iulia one can find living proofs of the Romanians' rich scholarly life throughout history.

At the entrance there is a Latin inscription on a marble plate: "In the year of the Lord 1918, on December 1, the union of the entire Transylvania to Daco-Romania was proclaimed, once and for all, through the solemn and unanimous vote of the people. Eternal be the memory of this act."

The Union Hall (below) and the main facade of the Union Museum (photos by Alexandru Radu)



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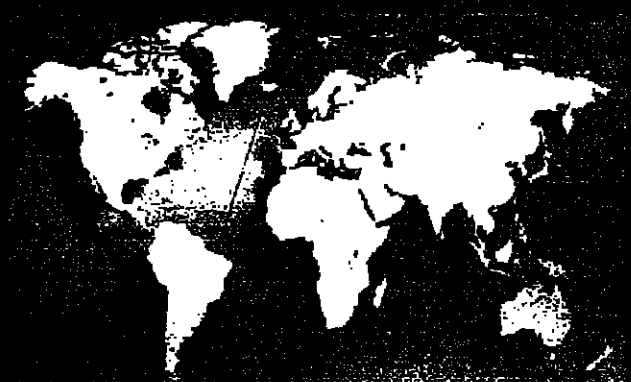
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Socialists unveil harshest budget in 15 years as farmers protest

ATHENS (AP) — The Socialist government has presented what it called the harshest annual budget in 15 years as part of a last ditch effort to bring Greece in line with the rest of the European Union.

Protesting more austerity, thousands of farmers responded by using tractors to block the main north-south highway, and rail link at four separate central points, effectively cutting Greece in half.

Premier Costas Simitis refused to meet with farmers and his government said it has no more room for economic manoeuvring.

"Such statements only serve to inflame thousands of farmers even more," said Ioannis Patsikas, a protest organizer. He added farmers would not lift blockades "until we have talks and binding promises."

Economy and Finance Minister Yannis Papantoniou said that despite public outcry over austerity there was no choice left to the government but further belt-tightening.

"The government understands the reactions, it expected them as this is the harshest budget in 15 years," Mr. Papantoniou said.

Mr. Papantoniou unveiled the budget in the 300-member unicameral parliament, where the 162-seat Socialist majority is expected to approve it on Dec. 27.

It came one day after the largest labour unions protested



Hundreds of tractors blockade Greece's main north-south road before a toll station outside the town of Larissa. The farmers blocked the national highway near the central town of Larissa with 5,000 tractors, cutting off almost all land traffic between Athens and second city of Salonica in the north (Reuters photo)

the budget and new taxes with a 24-hour nationwide strike that ground the country to a halt.

Mr. Simitis, accused of reneging on pre-election promises, increased direct taxes by 13.4 per cent in the budget and indirect taxes by 16.9 per cent.

Mr. Papantoniou said the budget forecast revenues of 9.5 trillion drachmas (\$39.6 billion), or up 17.5 per cent from this year, and spending of 11.8 trillion drachmas (\$49.2 billion), compared to 10.7 trillion (\$44.6 billion) in 1996.

The ensuing deficit was

expected to be 2.01 trillion (\$8.37 billion), compared to a forecast of 2.75 trillion (\$11.4 billion) this year, while the gross deficit, or the borrowing requirement plus the interest owed, would rise to 2.9 trillion (\$12.1 billion).

Mr. Papantoniou said he hopes to cut the budget deficit to 4.2 per cent of gross domestic product by the end of 1997 and below 3.5 per cent in 1998.

European Monetary Union requirements, which Greece has admitted it will not reach by the end of the century but hopefully early in the 21st, include

trimming the deficit to below 3 per cent of GDP and bringing the total public debt close to 60 per cent of GDP.

According to the budget, the total public debt next year will be 16 per cent higher than total GDP. "We are making attempts to deal with the debts," Mr. Simitis said in parliament.

Although Mr. Simitis promised big public spending cuts, the budget foresees increased expenditures for all ministries, including 105.3 per cent for the Aegean ministry, 14.2 for education and 12.7 for defence.

'Spain will be in at start of EMU'

BONN (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said in an interview released on Saturday he was convinced Spain would be among the first countries to join European Monetary Union (EMU) in 1999.

He said the European Union must avoid the "historic mistake" of not allowing enough countries to join the single currency at the outset.

Mr. Aznar told the German news weekly Der Spiegel he had "no doubt" that Spain would be in the first wave of countries.

"We will be in 1999, out of conviction but also because we have the strength," he said.

Mr. Aznar was asked whether Spain would fulfil the tough economic criteria for EMU membership, and whether he felt Germany's

insistence on economic discipline as the basis for a stable single currency was too tough.

"This year we will reach the intermediate goal we set ourselves on the reduction of the deficit. Now we have passed the 1997 budget. The markets reacted positively. Interest rates are lower. For those reasons I am optimistic," Mr. Aznar replied. "I know the Germans are worried about the stability of the euro, and I share those worries. We must all introduce the necessary reforms. I can proudly say that I put forward the toughest budget in the last 20 years of Spanish democracy."

Mr. Aznar rejected the idea that it would be easier to combat Spain's high unemployment without the pressure of the Maastricht criteria.

"We only got into this situation because we didn't feel the pressure of Maastricht," he said. "I'm convinced you can only conquer unemployment when state finances are healthy, inflation is low, the deficit and debt are under control and productivity is high. That's why I like the Maastricht rules," Mr. Aznar who recently initiated Italy by dismissing a suggestion that the EMU criteria could be relaxed and the schedule altered, said it was important that a large number of countries adopt the single currency.

"We must be very careful not to create problems by keeping the number of participants in currency union too small," he said. "That would be a historic error with major repercussions which would be hard to undo."

Morocco will not renew EU fishing accord

RABAT (R) — Morocco said on Saturday it would not renew its three-year fishing accord with the European Union (EU) allowing a fleet of 700 vessels to fish in Moroccan waters.

"The Moroccan government has decided not to renew the three-year fishing accord signed with the European Union earlier this year," a Moroccan official at the Ministry of Fisheries said. But he said Morocco remained "open to other forms of partnership and cooperation in the fishing sector." The accord, initiated in November 1995 after months of wrangling, was finally signed in Brussels in February 1996.

It sets out all the principles, rules and details of fisheries cooperation between Brussels and Rabat, particularly prevention of overfishing and the sale of fish once caught.

World Bank economist blasts Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (R) — World Bank chief economist Michael Bruno blasted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday for a lack of "serious thinking" on economic reforms.

Mr. Bruno, asked by Israel radio to review Mr. Netanyahu's economic performance after nearly six months in office, praised the prime minister's rhetoric on budget cuts and economic liberalisation but said Israel needed action, not talk.

"What stands out in the economy in these 180 days... is that there is talk, talk, and more talk but nothing is being done," Mr. Bruno told the radio.

"The most worrying thing is the double messages we are hearing from the prime minister's office," he said.

Mr. Bruno, who was Bank of Israel governor from 1986 to 1991, attacked Mr. Netanyahu for not following through on repeated calls for capital market reforms and broad economic liberalisation.

He said Mr. Netanyahu's proposals to cut government spending by some seven billion shekels in 1997 to narrow a soaring budget deficit were incompatible with his calls for increased defence spending and promises to coalition partners.

"The talk about raising the defence budget... is simply contradictory. So are the promises he has made to various parties saying 'I won't cut this, I'll find another way.' These are all double mes-

sages giving the impression that this thing is unplanned and there has not been serious thinking until the end," Mr. Bruno said.

Mr. Netanyahu this week called for stepped up defence spending in light of tensions with Israel's Arab neighbours which have re-ignited since the right-winger took office in June.

The proposed budget cuts fall mainly on housing and social welfare spending. Members of the prime minister's own coalition have vowed to fight the cuts which they say target the poor.

"In the Israeli economy, you can't make serious budget cuts only in welfare without making them in defence," Mr. Bruno said.

(\$1 = 3.26 shekels)

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLE	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5390	0.5951	1.3040	113.00	1.3510	1514.65	1.7259	5.2260
DE Mark	0.6498	1.0000	0.3862	0.8470	73.34	0.8773	983.54	1.1212	3.3650
GB Sterling	1.6805	2.5890	1.0000	2.1852	191.39	2.2704	2545.37	2.9004	8.7623
CH Franc	0.7668	1.1798	0.4558	1.0000	97.21	1.0356	1161.10	132.30	4.0061
JP Yen	0.0088	1.3512	0.5221	1.1449	1.0000	1.1881	133.30	151.53	4.5882
CA Dollar	0.7402	1.1342	0.4438	0.9588	1.19	1.0000	1124.34	1.2716	3.8426
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0154	0.3824	0.8860	1332.62	0.8914	1.0000	11.39	3.4481
NL Guilder	0.5784	0.8915	0.3445	0.7534	66.91	0.7825	877.35	1.0000	3.0271
FR Franc	0.1914	0.2944	0.1138	0.24926	21.76	0.2584	33.01	33.0100	1.0000

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	23.60	23.55
WTI	23.65	23.65
Bony	23.60	23.55
Dubai	20.83	20.98
UL Gas	214.00	214.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4106	0.15867	0.34784	30.3711
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41928	0.16201	0.35516	31.0106
KW Dinar	3.3462	5.15198	1.99124	4.38491	381.098
BH Dinar	0.3760	0.4995	0.156253	0.346981	302.939
CY Pound	2.1433	3.2985	1.2746	2.7949	243.908

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	371.3	371.8
Silver (oz's)	4.72	4.74
Platinum (oz's)	374	375
AL (3 Months)	1529	1530
CU (3 Months)	2242	2243
Zinc (3 Months)	1070	1071
Lead (3 Months)	686	686
NL (3 Months)	6815	6820

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Cncy	Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	Year
USD	5.44	5.38	5.41	5.47	5.54
GBP	6.10	6.30	6.50	6.56	6.84
JPY	0.30	0.34	0.36	0.40	0.42
DEM	3.16	3.11	3.14	3.00	3.23
FRF	3.29	3.36	3.41	3.41	3.44
CHF	1.99	1.97	1.96	1.81	2.11
ITL	7.39	7.04	6.80	6.62	6.53

Main Equity Indices					
Bourse	Index	Value	Chg	% Chg	High
New York	DOW JONES	6521.7	22.36	0.34	6532.14
New York	S&P 500	757.02	2.02	0.27	758.27
London	FT-SE 100	4058	7.8	0.19	4067.3
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	21020.38	-15.18	-0.07	21155.2
Paris	CAC 40	2315.68	25.36	1.11	2327.81
Frankfurt	DAX	2845.52	28.03	0.99	2845.52

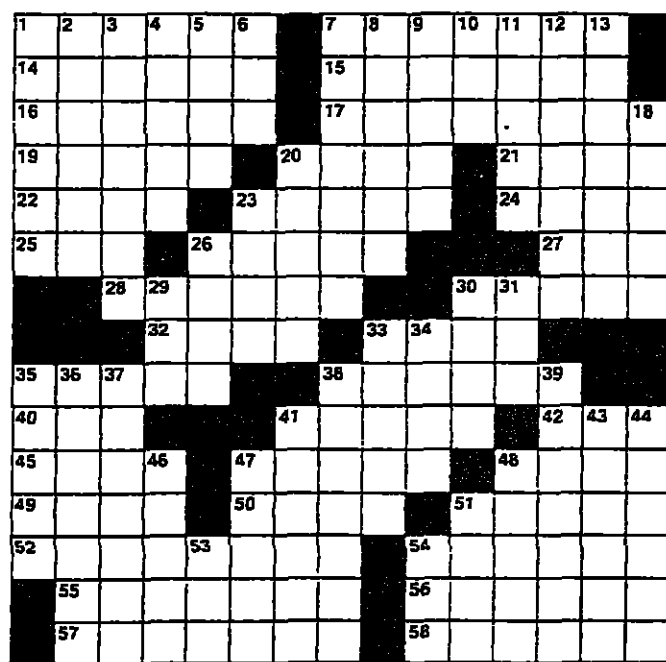
Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	0	Spot
Cocoa (S/ton)	1416	Spot
Sugar (S/ton)	308.9	Spot
Wheat (S/ton)	133	Spot
Soy (c/lbs)	21.68	Spot
Tea (S/lb/kg)	120	Spot
Barley (S/b-h)	2.24	Spot
Rice (S/ton)	470	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1881	1.194
DE Mark	0.4589	0.4612
CH Franc	0.5422	0.5449
FR Franc	0.1352	0.1359
JP Yen	0.6205	0.6236
NL Guilder	0.4098	0.4118
IT Lira	0.4668	0.4691

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

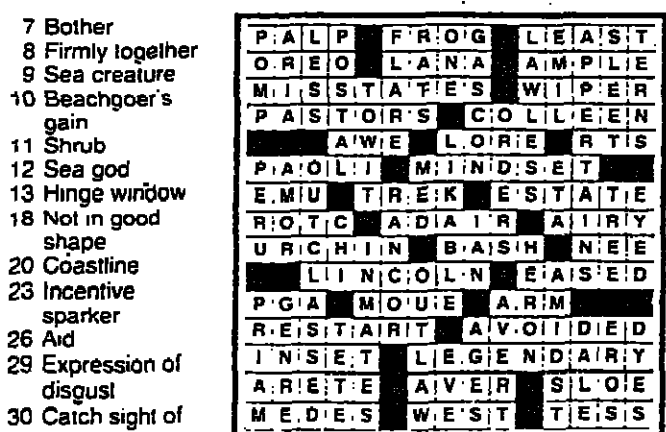
THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Landlord
 - Way out there
 - Connected to a computer network
 - Device to ease breathing
 - Rejoiced in
 - Refuse to change
 - Underwater worker
 - Box office draw
 - Sicilian
 - mountain
 - Regular
 - Remove the husk
 - Corrode
 - Hideout
 - Nautical term
 - Negative
 - Garden city
 - Antagonist
 - Actor Richard
 - Nudnik
 - Fracas
 - Winner's prize
 - Roadhouse
 - Pal
 - Letters
 - Cupid
 - Severe criticisms
 - Pesky insect
 - Spiritually destroyed
 - African country
 - Fool
 - Computer processible info
 - Packed with good humor
 - Wishy-washy
 - Get even for
 - Backdrops
 - Roamed



by Glenon Petgrave

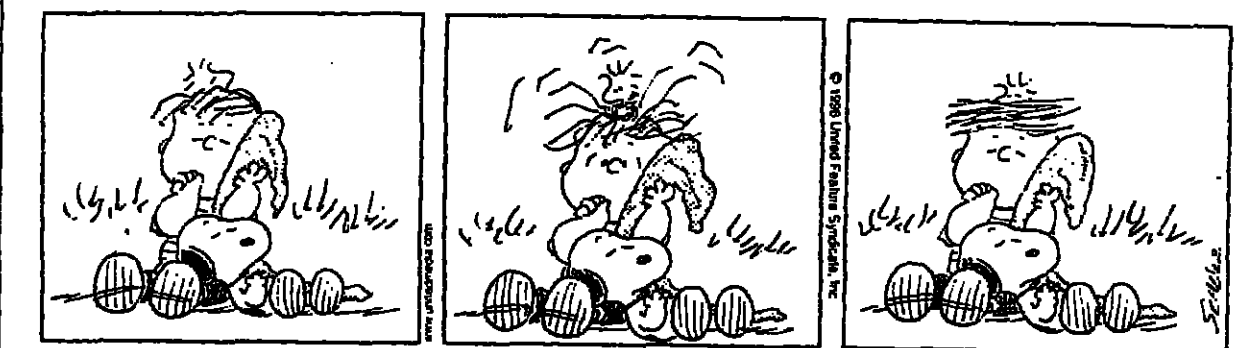
- DOWN
- Very wealthy
 - Salad addition
 - Slobs
 - Ambulance device
 - Lulu
 - Color



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- Bother
- Firmly together
- Sea creature
- Beachgoer's gain
- Shrub
- Sea god
- Hinge window
- Not in good shape
- Coastline
- Incentive sparker
- Aid
- Expression of disgust
- Catch sight of
- Utmost degree
- Television spot
- Area of study
- Hostile invasions
- Sage
- Sad event
- Craving
- More in sight
- Run
- Fashioned
- Trite
- U.S. unit
- Donated
- Variable star
- Roll
- Liquid container

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be more concerned today with the spiritual side of life since you have been too materialist. Reach a balance in the days ahead and thereby you will discover that you can gain internal peace and contentment for your loved ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Personal aims seem difficult to materialize, however if you keep an aggressive posture towards your career activities, you will notice a prosperous outcome. With time you get good results and notice much success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You may find it difficult to get out today from under certain conditions which you do not like. Persevere for fine results in the days ahead and thereby you will gain the admiration of bigwigs and fellow associates.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Handle the difficulties which are connected with your personal aims, so that you can receive much success. Try to be more self-reliant and not so dependant upon the opinions or methods of operation of others.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is not a good day today to try to reconcile with one who is an outside fellow associate or ally, otherwise you will notice that you are proceeding backwards. You can await a better day for there to be prosperous results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are studying into new interests today, which is fine, however it is not to take any action just yet, since you will have time to spare. Later this evening you can spend some quality time with your loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to study business methods with fellow associates and determine the best options you have to make any business activities more prosperous. Don't bring up any sore points this evening with the one you love.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You may find that a fellow associate today stubborn as you are, so you had better compromise and reach some mutual decision. Later this evening you can go out on the town with close friends and have a wonderful time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may find it difficult to get career activities completed, however keep plugging at them and you will notice favourable results. Improve your health and thereby you can handle any difficult situations with great ease.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you get into amusements with others today, act in a gracious and charming manner and everyone will be happy. Later this evening you can get together with fellow associates and devise a method of operation for being successful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study affairs at home today and make sure you do nothing which could disturb your loved ones there. Tonight will be a good time to make arrangements to visit other close friends and have a good time together.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be soothing to an outside fellow associate who is having a rough time and could be quite depressed, thereby in the days ahead you will notice a change in him or her. Later this evening meet with a bigwig and discuss any tasks.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon.

Irish company pulls plug on proud Dutch Fokker

AMSTERDAM (R) — A Northern Irish company that makes wings for Fokker has effectively pulled the plug on over 75 years of proud Dutch plane-making tradition.

Fokker, one of the great names in pioneering aviation history, was declared bankrupt in March after racking up huge losses, but had limped on in the hope of a last-minute rescue.

As Dutch, Russian and

Canadian suitors decided against taking on Fokker, thousands of skilled workers walked away to find jobs elsewhere and deadlines came and went, hopes of salvaging something from Fokker's wreckage rested on takeover talks with South Korea's Samsung Aerospace.

But on Thursday, Samsung told the Dutch government, a minority Fokker shareholder, that it needed

another month before being able to decide whether or not to take Fokker over.

That was the final straw for Belfast-based Shorts, part of Canadian planemaker Bombardier, which makes the wings for Fokker F-70 and F-100 regional jets.

Despite Dutch state pleas and requests for British government intervention, Shorts said it could no longer keep production lines open to supply Fokker wings.

Court-appointed administrators who had been running Fokker on a skeleton staff of 650 for months said it would cost too much and take too long to try and get a deal with an alternative wing supplier and Samsung said it would not bear any additional costs resulting from its delay in making a final decision.

While administrators, government ministers and Fokker workers clung to vague hopes that a white knight may yet ride in to pull Fokker from the brink, the company that developed 125 different kinds of aircraft is expected to deliver its last plane and shut its doors in May.

On Thursday, a tired-looking Hans Wijers, Dutch economic affairs minister, told reporters he could not rule out the possibility of a new bidder emerging, but this was highly unlikely.

"If no serious candidate comes forward then liquidation becomes inevitable at a certain moment," he said.

"But I would add that, whatever happens, aeroplanes will continue to be built until May."

"You must never rule out the possibility of other can-

didates emerging... But I must say the chances have become much smaller as a result of the events of the last few weeks," he said, adding that if no new candidate did come forward then what was left of Fokker would be broken up and sold off.

Fokker, founded in 1919 by Dutch aviation pioneer Anthony Fokker, is one of the oldest names in the industry and its F27 Friendship Turboprop, launched in 1957, was one of the industry's biggest commercial successes.

But in recent years Fokker struggled to achieve financial stability and swapped industry partners several times.

In 1993 Daimler Benz Aerospace (DASA) paid 686 million guilders (\$398.8 million) for a 51 per cent stake in Fokker but, despite job cuts and tight cost control, depressed world aircraft markets and a weak dollar saw the company sink deeper into loss.

In January 1996, Daimler said it could no longer bear Fokker's huge losses and cut off all financial support, forcing the company into bankruptcy two months later.

For its part, Samsung appears to have missed the chance to resurrect Fokker and use it as a springboard to becoming a major player in the global aerospace industry.

The Dutch government had indicated it would provide fresh capital and help develop a new 125-seat regional jet, but Samsung balked at demands for long-term job guarantees in the Netherlands.

Gulf states discuss ways to supply gas to Europe

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are discussing ways to supply natural gas to the European Union (EU) following their recommendations on such sales during a gas conference in Qatar this month, an official said on Saturday.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and their main economic partner, the EU, are planning to carry out a study on how to transport gas to the Europeans as the region has no pipelines, said Anwar Abdullah, director of the Oil and Gas Department at the Riyadh-based GCC secretariat.

"There are plans now to conduct a study in cooper-

ation with the EU and the industrial sector on the best means to transport natural gas to the EU," Mr. Abdullah told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) economic weekly Emirates Today.

"Proposals in that study will be presented to the joint energy team, which will meet in the first half of 1997 to discuss such a move and to follow up the implementation of the recommendations at the conference in Qatar," he said.

The GCC, a major oil and gas power, currently does not export natural gas to the EU, which gets most of its supplies from Russia and Algeria.

But the UAE started this year to supply the EU with

liquefied natural gas after an expansion in its main LNG complex created a large surplus.

Industry sources said any gasline from the GCC to the EU has to pass through Jordan, Syria and Turkey or under the Mediterranean to bypass Turkish territory. It could also travel through Iraq and Turkey.

The six GCC members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE — have around 21 trillion cubic metres of natural gas, nearly 15 per cent of the total global gas reserves.

Around one third of the GCC reserves are in Qatar, which experts expect to be the main supplier to the EU

as its resources are mostly unassociated with oil, making such supplies much cheaper.

Qatar is also expected to supply some of its partners in the GCC with natural gas through a proposed pipeline distribution network.

"There is a desire by the EU to diversify their gas supply sources and we have a desire to supply the EU with gas," Mr. Abdullah said.

He said the gas reserves in the GCC — a 15-year-old economic, defence and political alliance — could last around 200 years.

Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Deposits in Jordanian banks rise

DEPOSITS in Jordanian bank have risen by JD 154,700,000 in the first nine months of this year, according to sources at the Central Bank of Jordan. The sources said deposits in Jordanian banks at the end of the third quarter of this year totalled JD 5,942,200,000, compared to JD 5,787,500,000 at the beginning of the year (Al Ra'i).

Jordanian fair opens in Beirut

A JORDANIAN industrial fair was Friday opened in Beirut by Lebanese Economy and Commerce Minister Yassin Jaber. A total of 110 Jordanian companies are participating in the fair, organised by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCO). In a statement at the opening ceremony, Mr. Jaber said the fair comes in implementation of a trade agreement signed between the two countries, noting that several Lebanese firms were held in Amman. Expressing hope that the fair will pave the way for holding more such exhibits of Jordanian industries in Beirut, he said the Lebanese government has extended an invitation to the Kingdom to take part in Tripoli International Fair which is being prepared to become a permanent industrial exhibition of products of various world countries. The minister underlined the importance of such fairs, saying they will surely lead to enhancing inter-Arab relations and enabling Arab countries to establish economic integration (Al Ra'i & Al Aswaq).

Factory in service of local community

THE NUMBER of Jordan Cement Factories Company employees who come from the Balqa Governorate totals 700, who represent about 65 per cent of the total number of employees in the company's factory in Fuheis. Factory Director Iffaz Halaseh said the company was keen to interact with and help areas surrounding the factory and to give priority in employment and training to residents of these areas. Mr. Halaseh said the company annually allocates large sums of its annual budgets to help the surrounding areas, especially Al Fuheis city, through providing financial assistance to municipal, cultural and voluntary councils and organisations. During the past nine months, he said, the company provided Al Fuheis and Mahes municipalities with JD 45,000 and helped in establishing several public facilities, including a sports club. He said that the company has allocated JD 24.5 million to supply the factory with equipment needed to protect the environment. (Al Ra'i).

Tietmeyer says no change in German interest rates

BONN (AFP) — The president of the Bundesbank, Hans Tietmeyer, said he sees no reason at present to tinker with the German Central Bank's interest rates, in an interview to appear Monday.

"In the short term, I don't see any reason to modify the rates," Mr. Tietmeyer told the weekly magazine Der Spiegel. But he added that German interest rates may not yet have bottomed out. The Bundesbank's key rates are at their historic lowest level.

"We are of course going to check in the months to come if the interest rates are appropriate, but I see no reason to raise the rates in the foreseeable future."

Mr. Tietmeyer rejected out of hand the recent suggestion by some French politicians and Bank of France insiders that the German mark should come down against the dollar.

He went on to say that he had no objection to the dollar growing "a little stronger," but said the dollar was currently at a more reasonable rate against the mark than it had been in the past.

He defended the strong mark's position in Europe against charges that it made German exports more expensive, arguing that the high level of the currency allowed the country to avoid importing inflation.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARISANI											
TELEPHONE: 607111 / 607179 30/11/1996											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 30/11/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
1 252,500	205,000	ARAB BANK	14.2	1.35	34	6200	1591050	252.50	259.00	6.50	+
1 250	180	WID. EAST INV. BK.	70.9	0.00	41	26400	28278	1.05	1.08	0.03	+
2 700	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.1	0.27	3	500	12210	2.19	2.22	0.03	+
5 250	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.7	2.90	7	4165	18555	4.68	4.76	0.08	+
3 040	2,440	JOR. GULF BANK	18.1	0.00	14	40756	102241	2.50	2.50	-	
1 200	880	JOR. GULF BANK	5.8	2.22	2	1000	965	1.97	1.97	-	
4 180	3,180	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.2	0.00	5	478	1810	3.72	3.78	0.06	+
3 380	1,800	BEIT AL MAL (BEITINA)	1.2	8.05	1	150	279	1.84	1.86	0.02	+
5 850	4,450	ARAB BANKING CO.	24.2	0.00	5	346	1608	4.45	4.67	0.22	+
1 550	1,000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	17	5167	8784	1.30	1.33	0.03	+
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 196.03	CHNG: +2.15	129	65162	1753780				
1 850	1,440	ARABIAN SEAS INSUR.	10.2	5.40	2	605	841	1.44	1.39	0.05	-
2 910	1,830	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.5	10.31	11	3650	6933	1.90	1.94	0.04	+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 118.28	CHNG: +0.02	13	4255	7773				
1 900	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.7	7.10	67	63971	106678	1.63	1.69	0.06	+
2 350	8,000	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	17.2	0.06	2	879	7032	8.00	8.00	-	
1 560	1,210	INSD ELECTRICITY	9.4	6.94	2	120	173	1.44	1.41	-	
6 050	4,200	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	17.5	2.91	1	400	1764	4.20	4.41	0.21	+
4 870	2,050	SHIPPING LINES	11.0	2.69	1	1000	2600	2.54	2.60	0.06	+
1 960	1,080	MATL. PORTFOLIO	0	0.00	97	70300	89464	1.21	1.27	0.06	+
1 260	580	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	32.3	0.00	2	600	378	1.61	1.63	0.02	+
2 300	660	KHCH. EQP. REPT. MAIN.	9	0.00	1	500	335	1.71	1.67	0.04	-
1 550	1,550	KID. EAST HOTELS	18.9	0.00	7	2850	4661	1.58	1.68	0.10	+
3 690	3,130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	14.7	5.38	11	2950	10801	3.69	3.72	0.03	+
1 270	960	ZAKIA EDUCATION	9	0.00	4	1150	1254	1.07	1.09	0.02	+
4 870	1,690	UNIFIED CO.	9.7	7.36	21	7850	14514	1.76	1.85	0.09	+
1 200	820	UNION LND DEV.	8	0.00	2	1500	1380	1.90	1.92	0.02	+
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 113.19	CHNG: +2.85	218	154170	240232				
3 770	3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.5	2.93	30	17085	58090	3.32	3.41	0.09	+
3 850	2,710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	33.4	0.00	12	850	1690	3.04	3.10	0.06	+
10 450	8,720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	8.54	10	640	6009	9.40	9.17	0.23	-
1 590	1,150	WOOL INDUSTRIES	57.3	0.00	18	10250	13287	1.28	1.29	0.01	+
3 750	1,650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	27.8	0.00	3	569	1177	1.97	2.07	0.10	+
4 870	3,040	ARAB PHARM. IND.	18.9	5.81	57	25924	89076	1.48	1.54	0.06	+
6 450	5,650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.7	4.03	1	600	3720	6.15	6.20	0.05	+
2 600	2,050	JORDAN DAIRY	13.2	6.94	1	500	1080	2.15	2.16	0.01	+
2 400	1,570	JOR. PAPER MANUFACT.	9.0	7.36	9	2300	3715	1.88	1.83	0.05	-
12 650	8,450	ARAB CEM. INTERN.	23.2	3.53	1	200	1700	8.50	8.50	-	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 114.12	CHNG: +1.47	601	453606	594328				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 152.89	CHNG: +1.89	961	697193	2596113				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 30/11/1996											
790	440	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	22.5	0.00	7	2750	1540	57	56	0.01	-
800	510	JOR. TRADE FAC.	15.2	0.00	44	71650	41848	55	57	0.02	+
950	440	MATL. COMMER. CENTERS	8	0.00	22	29200	16475	55	56	0.01	-
930	700	UNION INV. 504	70.8	0.00	60	126750	30320	72	74	0.02	+
1 110	370	ARAB FIB. INVEST.	4	0.00	4	13000	5720	42	42	0.00	
1 550	690	AL-DUMULAT 75	16.5	0.00	24	30285	14536	72	73	0.01	+
640	340	JOR. INDUS. MATCH-JEWCO	9	0.00	4	6500	2535	37	39	0.02	+
880	510	ARAB FOOD & MEAT	8	0.00	7	3700	2477	64	66	0.02	+
1 760	1,300	MATL. CEMENT	5	0.00	5	1450	2045	1.41	1.41	-	
700	450	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	3	7500	3675	47	49	0.02	+
1 000	520	MATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	26	26450	15061	58	60	0.02	+
1 300	400	MATL. BOTT. ENG. HANICO	7	0.00	7	12520	7168	44	47	0.02	+
810	430	KAYAKA DIES & HOLELUS	8	0.00	3	1000	490	49	49	-	
1 080	730	JORDAN STEEL	8	0.00	21	11700	9041	78	77	0.01	-
780	400	ARAB PHARM. IND.	16	0.00	2	400	200	50	50	0.00	
1 330	1,020	UNION TOBACCO 754	8	0.00	22	1000	840	1.07	1.09	0.02	+
840	570	RATZ PHARM. 652	8	0.00	12	9946	2784	60	63	0.03	+
830	390	INDUS. RMG.	27.7	0.00	19	31300	14085	43	45	0.02	+
1 430	750	INDUS. CERAMIC	12	0.00	12	8951	7272	60	60	0.00	
880	590	MATL. POUTURY	8	0.00	3	15000	7655	66	67	0.01	+
950	800	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	59.0	0.00	3	500	420	80	84	0.04	+
1 550	530	WID. EAST COMPLEX	8.6	0.00	48	50800	35649	71	73	0.02	+
GRAND TOTAL					335	463582	224124				
1: New 12 months high 2: New 12 months low 3: Listed during the past 12 months 4: P/E ratio is 100 or more 5: Negative P/E 6: Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"My husband is too tired for romance. Got any perfume with caffeine in the fumes?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SESMY

GEITH

OSUREA

RALOPP

My feet are killing me

WHAT A PERFECT PAIR OF SHOES ARE TO A MARATHON RUNNER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SIXTY OPERA MIDWAY VOLUME
Answer: How the car wash worker felt at the end of the day - WIPE OUT

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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1st Division Basketball Championship

Ahli, Orthodoxi meet tonight

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The country's all-time basketball rivals, Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi, meet Sunday to conclude the preliminary round of the First Division Basketball Championship.

With the introduction of this season of the playoff system, the result of tonight's match does not have any bearing on the title hopes of both unbeaten teams as the top four teams in the preliminaries qualify to play a two-leg playoff the winner of which will be crowned champion.

Nevertheless, that fact will not lessen the enthusiasm of fans and officials of both teams who have dominated the Kingdom's basketball scene for the past decades.

The match, scheduled to start at 6:15 p.m. at the Sports Palace, will be preceded by the women's

inaugural All-Star tournament (see separate story).

Al Orthodoxi's officials undoubtedly have a more relaxed feeling to tonight's match with their team having shown a more convincing form winning their previous matches.

While having a hard time subduing third-placed Al Jazireh, Al Orthodoxi finally won the match with a strong showing and a result of 95-83.

The rest of their results were a 77-57 win over Al Jalil, 133-54 win over Al Yarmouk, and 143-40 win

over Al Watani.

Al Ahli, on the other hand, came back from an 11 point deficit to beat Al Jazireh 63-60. They also had a tough time beating fourth-placed Al Jalil 78-70. They beat Al Watani 113-45. Al Yarmouk 74-37.

Al Ahli's younger lineup will be facing Al Orthodoxi in the absence of their top stars — Marwan Ma'touq, Yousef Zaghoul and Naser Bushnaq.

Al Orthodoxi are also represented by young players, like Ihab Msih and Fadi Saqqa, however the

team is led by powerful veteran Hilal Barakat.

As the preliminaries conclude tonight, the playoffs will begin Dec. 5.

Meanwhile the two other teams, newcomers Al Yarmouk and Al Watani, will play another round the loser of which will automatically drop to the second division while the winner will face the second division runner-up in a match the winner of which gets to keep their place in the first division while the loser drops to the second division.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	SA	Pts
Orthodoxi	4	4	0	448	234
Ahli	4	4	0	328	212
Jazireh	4	2	2	337	277
Jalil	4	1	3	291	308
*Yarmouk	3	-	3	178	310
*Watani	3	-	3	143	384

*Al Yarmouk and Al Watani have a postponed match

Jansher angers officials with late withdrawal

CARDIFF (R) — World number one Jansher Khan has angered squash officials by pulling out of a top-ranking international tournament starting in Bombay this weekend at the last minute.

"This late withdrawal will have to be vigorously reviewed," said Professional Squash Association (PSA) Executive Director John Nimitz in a statement Friday.

A fax from Jansher was received at the PSA offices Thursday in which the player said he was pulling out because of security concerns and threats to his safety.

It is the fourth time this

year Jansher has withdrawn from a PSA world tour event. Two years ago he also withdrew from the inaugural Mahindra challenge tournament in Bombay saying organisers were unable to satisfy his security requirements as a high profile Muslim in a city where volatile politics often revolve around religious affiliation.

Sheila Cooksey, PSA world tour director, said the withdrawal would be investigated as a violation of PSA rule.

"Players may not withdraw, other than with injuries, from a tournament after the entry deadline is passed," she said.

Broncos' great season could be better

NEW YORK (AP) — Denver's John Elway, one of the American National Football League's masters at using the clock, has played the season like time is running out on him.

Having one of the best years of his 14 in the league, Elway has the opportunity to put his team into a better position for the NFL playoffs with a victory Sunday against the Seattle Seahawks.

The Broncos can not only win their division Sunday, they also can earn a first-round bye in the playoffs and homefield advantage throughout the postseason.

"Our goal since summer camp was to win the AFC West (Division)," said Denver coach Mike Shanahan, whose Broncos have only lost a three-point decision to Kansas City in their 11-1 season so far. "We're going to take first things first. All I know is we play a team that beat us in our backyard last year, so we've got something to prove."

Last Dec. 10, Denver jumped out to a 20-0 lead, but Seattle rallied for 21 fourth-quarter points in a 31-27 victory. The Broncos haven't lost at home since, posting six straight wins.

A victory Sunday would give the Broncos the AFC West title. A victory combined with a loss by Pittsburgh (which plays at Baltimore) would earn the Broncos a first-round bye. Denver also could earn a bye with a victory if Buffalo and New England both lose. Finally, the Broncos would earn homefield advantage with a victory and with losses by Buffalo and Pittsburgh.

In other games Sunday, it's Arizona at Minnesota, Buffalo at Indianapolis, Chicago at Green Bay, Cincinnati at Jacksonville, New York Giants at Philadelphia, Tampa Bay at Carolina, Houston at the New York Jets, Miami at Oakland, St. Louis at New Orleans, and New England at San Diego. Monday night, San Francisco plays at Atlanta.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMARA HIRSCH
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A DOUBLE SPOONFUL OF LUCK

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 3 4
♥ 10 J
♦ 8 7 6 5 2
♣ A K 10 5 3

WEST
♠ A Q 10 9 8
♥ A J 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ 9 7 4 2

EAST
♠ K 5 2
♥ K Q J 7 6 4 3
♦ K
♣ A 8 6

SOUTH
♠ A 8 7 3
♥ 9 8 6
♦ A 10 9 4
♣ Q J

The bidding:
WEST 2NT
NORTH 4C
SOUTH 4C
Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

In a performance which might never be equaled, Krzysztof Lasocki and Piotr Gawrys won the European Pair Championship. On their way to the title, they topped the field in each of the three qualifying rounds. To complete a stupendous performance by their country, Polish pairs also won the Senior Pairs, Brans Masters Invitation Pairs and Philip Morris B Pairs for a clean sweep of the event.

Lasocki and Gawrys have been a force in world bridge for some years. Their latest achievement was a combination of brilliant play, some gifts from the opponents and a dollop of luck. Here's an example of the latter.

Lasocki's two-no-trump opening bid showed a minor two-suiter and Gawrys's jump to four diamonds was natural and invitational. When Lasocki elected to cue-bid four hearts, Gawrys decided that there had to be play for slam.

With any other lead, declarer would have had an easy time. When West found the lead of the ten of spades, declarer was in trouble. The first trick was taken with the ace, a heart was ruffed in dummy and the jack of diamonds was led, covered by the king and won with the ace. Since there was a certain trump loser, declarer had to avoid losing a spade to get home.

The queen and jack of clubs were cashed, a heart was ruffed on the table and declarer discarded two spades on the two ace and king of clubs. When West had to follow in all four clubs and East could not ruff, the slam was in the bag. Declarer's last spade went on the 8th club, and a trump was the only loser.

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Preparation for 17th Asian Championship begins with women's All-Star basketball tourney today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With every participation in regional or international competitions, a simultaneous fundraising campaign is part of the game.

The Kingdom's inaugural women's basketball All-Star tournament, which kicks off tonight, is again the start of such a campaign after the decision of the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) to regroup the women's national team for a possible participation in the 17th Asian Basketball Championship due to be held in Bangkok April 27, 1997.

Members of the national team will contest the All-Star tourney and have been divided into two teams. They will be wearing the logos of their first two sponsors — Babiche and Today.

The tourney will include three matches on Dec. 1, 5, and 12 preceding the men's first division matches at the Sports Palace.

Team officials say while players were called to start training over a month ago, the unavailability of a practice court has hindered setting fixed practice dates and times — a fact that seriously hinders their training programme for the Asian Championship.

The players include: (Babiche team) Rana Hussein, Rania Dajani, Tetyana Qardan, Tala Mauge, Hala Muheisen, Sirsa Abaza, Samar Banna, Randa Sayegh, Tala Abu Shmeis, Dana Abu Sham, Sahar Mdanat, Ellen Shaddad, Nour Kayyal, and Zein Sh'asha'a.

Today team: Indeira Qasesieh, Hind Ghouri, Tamara Khadra, Dima Shadiid, Sirsa Naghaway, Hala Ghattas, Ruwa Hijazi, Yara Kheir, Lubna Masri, Shireen Bisbeh, Luma Abu Judum, Karol Kirreh, Najwa Shiber, and Rawan Stetieh.

Borussia Dortmund thwarted in bid to go top

BONN (R) — Borussia Dortmund's hopes of going top of the German First Division were thwarted when they were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Hamburg Friday.

Karsten Baeron's 79th minute equaliser for Hamburg — his fifth goal of the season — stopped Borussia from leading the standings for the first time since they clinched the league title on May 18.

Borussia had to be content with moving up to second spot, one point behind Bayern Munich who meet third-placed VfB Stuttgart on Sunday.

Borussia, missing suspended defender Juergen Kohler and injured playmaker Andy Moeller, dominated the first half in front of a capacity crowd of 55,000 but scored three good scoring chances in the space of a few minutes.

Captain Michael Zorc and Heiko Herrlich (twice) were the culprits. Lars Ricken eventually broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute after being fed by Matthias Sammer.

"We lost the chance to go top because we missed so many good opportunities to score," said disappointed Borussia coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

But Hamburg coach Felix Magath felt his side deserved their point: "We were too nervous in the first half and it showed," he said. "But it was a different story in the second half."



Patrice Loko of Paris St. Germain (R) runs at the Caen defence as Rai (L) also of PSG and Stephane Dedebant of Caen (C) look on in their French league soccer match (Reuters photo)

PSG reclaim lead with 3-1 away win

PARIS (R) — Paris Saint-Germain snatched back the lead in the French division from Monaco when they came from behind to beat lowly Caen 3-1 away Friday.

With Brazilian Leonardo inspirational in midfield, psg scored through Panama's Julio Cesar Dely Valdes, his eighth league goal of the season, and France midfielders Vincent Guerin and Bruno N'Gotty.

"Mission accomplished, but with some scares and a team that only found itself after half an hour," said PSG executive director Michel Denisot.

"The championship is going to be hard fought up to the last day with Monaco, Bordeaux and Auxerre, who are also in the fight whatever their coach says."

Monaco won 1-0 at Montpellier to hold a two-point lead for 24 hours but PSG have now 42 points to Monaco's 41 after 20 matches.

Chadian playmaker

Japhet N'Doram missed a twice taken penalty but ended up with a hat-trick as Nantes crushed 10-man Cannes 5-1 to become the biggest scorers in the division with 37 goals, one more than Monaco.

Cannes were down to 10 men from late in the first half when defender David Jemmal was sent off for a second bookable offence.

With the score still 0-0 after more than half an hour N'Doram missed the first penalty kick after he had been brought down but the referee ordered a retake because of encroachment by Cannes players.

N'Doram had his second spot kick parried by goalkeeper Francois Lemasson but netted the rebound.

The Chadian added further goals in the 50th and 89th minutes while teammates Claude Makelele and Jocelyn Gourvenec also found the net as Nantes climbed to 10th after equalling PSG's record run of 13 games unbeaten this

season. Nancy's Gregory Wimbee became the first goalkeeper to score in the French first division in open play for 15 years when he came up to snatch a last gasp equaliser from a corner in a 1-1 draw against Lens.

Nancy squandered a first half penalty and one in four has been in the first division so far this season.

Strasbourg striker David Zitelli was the only player to convert a penalty of the three awarded to help his side beat Lyon 3-0 and climb to third equal with Bordeaux on 34 points.

Zitelli scored twice, curling his first goal straight in from a corner kick, to join Rennes.

Stephane Guivarc'h as the division's leading marksmen with 14 each.

Guivarc'h hit his side's only goal in a 3-1 defeat by bottom club Nice who won for the first time in 10 games.

Rennes are the worst travellers with only two points out of a possible 33 away.

Champions Auxerre rose one place to sixth with their first league win in five matches, 1-0 away to Lille with a goal by striker Lilian Laslandes. They play their final European Champions' League game at home to Glasgow Wednesday.

"We're off again. I had a rather restructured team. Our injured players worked well in solitude, allowing them to come back a bit sooner," said Auxerre coach Guy Roux.

"It was very important to win. Bastia and Metz lost and we have recovered a bit of ground, which will add some spice to our match with Bordeaux next week. But let's not get carried away. It was a match of consequences."

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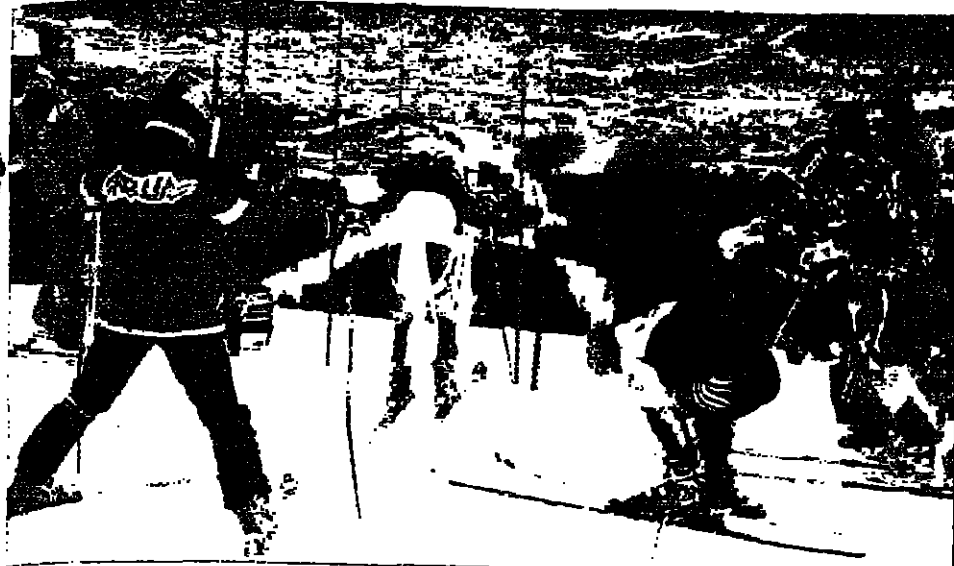
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PHILADELPHIA 2	PAMELA ANDERSON...in	THE ROCK	(IN DOLBY STEREO)	Whoopie Goldberg ... in	BOYS ON THE SIDE			For reservation please call	625155 - 640155
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World cup ski racers begin their training runs at the top of Peak Ten with a view of Breckenridge, Colorado in the background in preparation for world cup races (Reuters photo)

Street has a target on her back

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta (R) — World Cup downhill champion Picabo Street, racing on one of her favorite hills, said Friday she'll have her hands filled when she goes after a personal and professional three-peat.

"I've been wearing the bulls-eye and they've all been chasing me for two years. I'll give it my best but if somebody else wins, I'll let her wear the bulls-eye for a week and go chase her," Street said after her final training run.

She won the first World Cup race of her career at Lake Louise in December 1994 and went on to become the first American skier to win a World Cup downhill title that season. She won her again last season and, by season's end, had made it two straight crowns. She's won nine races in the last two years.

"This time it's tougher," the 25-year-old from Sun Valley, Idaho. "If I'm in the top five, I'll be very happy. I came here looking to be top 10."

"A three-peat? It's almost too much to think about. I just want to focus on skiing as well as I can. This hill's been good to me. And they say 'third time's a charm' so we'll see."

Organisers have lengthened the course, going higher on the mountain for the start and lengthening the

bottom of the narrow run, making it a 2.8-kilometre course.

"They've made it a tougher course and that's appropriate because everyone's skiing better."

Thursday, when she stood through the final 100 meters to the finish and was tied for seventh, she noted, "yeah, I had a good time but I didn't ski well. I've got a few things to clean-up."

After her final run, where she again stood for the final 50 meters and was tied for eighth, Street said, "three days of training's brought me up to speed."

The women have raced two world cup giant slaloms and a slalom so far with the first downhill — the flamboyant Street's debut this season — and the inaugural Super-G Sunday at Lake Louise ski area.

Surgery to remove bone spurs on the outside of each foot in June limited some of her pre-season training. So did a lack of snow in South America which wiped out one downhill and Super-G training camp, and poor weather which plagued another in Australia in August and September as she got back on her skis.

"I love coming here. You can rock 'n' roll all the way down. It just keeps flowing and flowing to the bottom."

German racer Katja Seizinger held a tight grip

on the world cup downhill crown, winning three straight before Street snatched the title in 1995 as she won six races. Seizinger, who also has won four straight Super-G championships and is the reigning women's overall World Cup title-holder, will join Street as one of the favourites for the first speed events of the season.

"Oh, I think this course helps some of the bigger girls because the weight helps as we keep charging down the hill."

Seizinger won the first training run while Zelenkaja, who lost an apparent victory when a snowstorm raked Lake Louise a year ago, had the fastest training run Thursday and Friday.

The American shrugs at questions about any reported tiff with Seizinger. "What's to say? This 'feud' has been pretty well over-written. I respect her and I think 'Seizig' respects me."

Street races with a brown helmet painted — by her high school art instructor, John Blackman — to resemble a ram's head, right down to the horns curling back past her ears to the side of each cheek.

"It's my sun sign. I'm an Aries and I like the toughness of a ram. You've got to be tough in downhill," she said.

Rockets beat Celtics for 8th straight victory; Sonics beat Suns

BOSTON (R) — Matt Maloney and Charles Barkley scored 18 points to lead the Houston Rockets to their eighth straight victory, a 120-94 blowout of the Boston Celtics Friday.

Hakeem Olajuwon — in his second game back after a three-game absence due to an irregular heartbeat — had 17 points and 13 rebounds for the 14-1 Rockets, who own the best record in the Western Conference. They entered the game tied with Chicago for the NBA's best record.

"Our spot shooting tonight was just outstanding," said Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich. "Defensively, we just wanted to take away their high-percentage plays."

In Detroit, Shaquille O'Neal had 27 points and 11 rebounds and combined with Eddie Jones to score all of the Lakers' points in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles defeated the Detroit Pistons, 84-76.

Nick Van Exel and Jones nailed consecutive three-pointers as the Lakers took the lead for good, 8-2, with 9:28 left in the first quarter. Jones made 3-of-5 three-pointers, tying an NBA record with at least two three-pointers in 22 straight games. He finished with 20 points.

"We just wanted to come in and play well," O'Neal said. "We read the paper this morning. I kind of like a challenge. They said we're going to foul him, make him shoot jumpers, make him go to his finesse hand, like I can't hit those shots. I just wanted to play my game and I did that."

In Dallas, Michael Jordan scored 36 points and Scottie Pippen added 32 and both keyed a pair of first-half runs as the Chicago Bulls continued their domination of the Dallas Mavericks with a 116-97 victory.

Miller's driving layup with 2:28 left in the third quarter broke a 66-66 tie and sparked a 10-6 run to end the period.

Rookie Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 20 points to lead the Grizzlies. In Philadelphia, Derrick Coleman scored 19 points and Jerry Stackhouse added 16 as the Philadelphia 76ers scored the first eight points of the game and never trailed on the way to a 100-91 triumph over the Orlando Magic.

Clarence Weatherspoon had 15 points and rookie Allen Iverson added 14 and a season-high 10 assists as the 76ers defeated the Magic for just the second time in their last 14 meetings.



Houston Rocket Mario Elie (L) knocks away a shot by Boston Celtic Dana Barros in first quarter action. Houston won the game 120-94 (Reuters photo)

At Indiana, Reggie Miller scored 25 points and Jalen Rose added 17 as the Indiana Pacers kept the Vancouver Grizzlies winless on the road with a 104-94 victory.

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the 76ers defeated the Magic for just the second time in their last 14 meetings.

In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock had 25 points and seven assists and Dikembe Mutombo added 25 points and 15 rebounds as the Atlanta Hawks snapped the Washington Bullets' three-game winning streak with a 110-81 victory.

Tyrone Corbin had 17 points for Atlanta, which has won four of its last five home games. The Hawks led virtually from the opening tip after the game was tied, 2-2.

In Portland, Rasheed Wallace scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds and Gary Trent added 18 points and 10 rebounds off the bench as the Portland Trail Blazers dominated on the boards on the way to their sixth win in seven games, a 119-93 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

At Utah, John Stockton had 28 points and 10 assists to propel the Utah Jazz to their ninth straight victory, a 111-94 romp over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Karl Malone and Jeff Hornacek added 19 points apiece as Utah had all five starters in double figures. Greg Ostertag contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz.

In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 26 points and Shawn Kemp added 25 as the Seattle SuperSonics defeated the lowly Phoenix Suns, 105-92 for their 13th win in 14 games. Payton added seven assists, and Kemp grabbed 13 rebounds.

Detlef Schrempf had 14 points and nine rebounds and Craig Ehlo scored nine of his 12 points in the fourth quarter for Seattle. Danny Manning had 18 points and 15 rebounds in 27 minutes off the bench before fouling out for Phoenix, which is 1-14.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Avdiyenko named Russian senior coach

MOSCOW (R) — Viktor Avdiyenko, who coached human 'submarine' Denis Pankratov to two Olympic butterfly titles in Atlanta, has been appointed senior trainer of the Russian swimming team. Avdiyenko, who also guided Yevgeny Sadovy to three Olympic crowns in Barcelona four years ago, has said he worked out Pankratov's technique of swimming under water for up to 30 metres.

Portugal's Rui Costa to stay at Fiorentina

FLORENCE (R) — Portugal midfielder Rui Costa said on Friday he had signed to stay at Italian First Division club Fiorentina until the year 2001. "I like it here and there was no reason to change clubs, because even if a lot of teams wanted me, no one wanted me as much as Fiorentina did," Costa told reporters after signing a new contract, said by Italian media to be worth two billion lire (\$1.3 million) a season. "I trust this team's management and I am confident I can win everything I want here," said Costa.

Engqvist levels Davis Cup tie

MALMO, Sweden (R) — Sweden's top player Thomas Engqvist levelled the Davis Cup final against France Friday when he beat Arnaud Boetsch in straight sets.

Earlier, Stefan Edberg had lost the opening singles against Cedric Pioline, also in three sets, after falling heavily and twisting his ankle.

Edberg, due to retire after the Davis Cup, said after his 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 defeat that his ankle injury could force him to miss his second singles against Boetsch Sunday.

Engqvist continued his outstanding form of recent months with a clinical 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 win over Boetsch.

After breaking Boetsch's serve at the end of the first set, the lanky Swede wore down his opponent, firing powerful baseline shots around the court.

He took the third set 7-2 after both players had broken service once.

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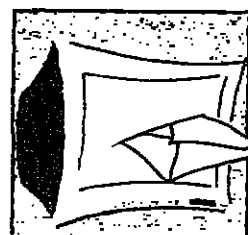
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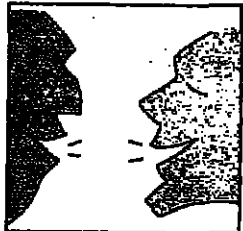
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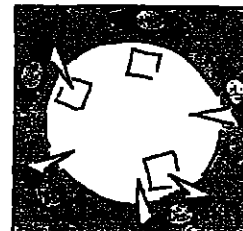
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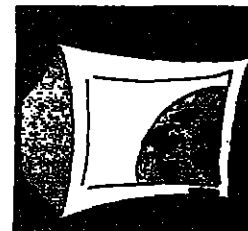
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Iraq sees better relations with U.S. through oil deal

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Iraq said Saturday that even participation of U.S. companies in the oil-for-food deal with the United Nations could lead to an improvement in relations between Baghdad and Washington.

Nizar Hamdoun, the Iraqi envoy to the United Nations, said Baghdad was ready to sell crude to any country under the oil-for-food agreement struck with the United Nations to ensure humanitarian supplies for the Iraqi people.

"The agreement covers companies in all countries... the companies which can compete will get a contract with Iraq whether to buy oil or to supply food and medicine to Iraq," he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Itihad.

"The U.S. companies are covered by that agreement. This could bolster Iraq's trade links with the U.S. and other countries. We hope that commercial ties between Iraq and foreign firms will boost political relations with their governments, including the government of the United States," he said.

He said Iraq had no "reservation on establishing relations with others on the basis of mutual respect and common interests."

Mr. Hamdoun expected Iraq to start pumping crude in December under the oil-for-food deal signed with the

U.N. in May and approved by Baghdad this week.

The accord was held up by differences with the United Nations and the United States on technical matters and other issues.

Mr. Hamdoun blamed the United States for the delay in the implementation of U.N. Resolution 986, allowing Iraq to export \$2 billion worth of crude every six months. He said the quantities to be exported depended on oil prices.

"The main obstacles were created by the U.S.," he said, adding that U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had played a key role in pushing for the deal.

Iraq has been under crippling U.N. sanctions since August 1990, when its forces seized Kuwait. It had produced more than three million barrels per day of crude before the invasion.

Baghdad said on Thursday it was ready to normalise relations with the United States and Gulf Arab states, which have joined the Americans and several other countries in a multi-national coalition to eject Iraqi troops from Kuwait after seven months of occupation.

Meanwhile, U.N. experts delayed a trip to Kurdish-held northern Iraq on Saturday to inspect customs posts through which humanitarian aid is to arrive under the oil-for-food deal with the United Nations, U.N. sources said in Baghdad.

The sources declined to give any reason for the delay in the trip to Zakho, a border post with Turkey, by the three representatives of Lloyd's of London, who arrived in the Iraqi capital on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the U.N. experts inspected customs facilities in the southern Iraqi port Uman Qasr.

Ivor Leavers, the head of the group, had told reporters on Friday that the inspectors would visit Zakho on Saturday before going to Trebil, on the border with Jordan in western Iraq.

Zakho, Uman Qasr and Trebil are to be used for imports of humanitarian supplies once Baghdad makes its return to the international oil market under the oil-for-food accord.

Decisions have yet to be taken on where to house the inspectors while a pumping and metering station on the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline has to be repaired, U.N. officials said. Iraq expects repairs to be done by Dec. 5.

U.N. diplomats in New York estimate the first oil shipments will begin in mid-December.

While Lloyd's will supply experts to oversee the delivery of humanitarian aid, the Netherlands company Saybolt is to provide monitors for the first international oil shipments since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.



STONE OF DESTINY RETURNED: The Royal Procession arrives at Edinburgh Castle Esplanade with the Stone Of Destiny and four Royal Air Force Tornados flying overhead on Saturday. The stone, originally used during the coronation of Scottish kings, is being returned to Scotland having been stolen by the English over seven hundred years ago, and will now stay on display in Edinburgh Castle (Reuters photo)

Libya advertises in Jordan inviting Arabs to immigrate

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Libyan government is pressing ahead with a campaign to invite Arabs to migrate to Libya and help the country's efforts to build its "productive base," an advertisement appearing in the local press indicated Saturday.

The advertisement appeared in Jordan more than one week after it was published in the Egyptian press, inviting "qualified" Arabs of all nationalities to settle in the country permanently.

Citing "the unity of the Arabs from the Gulf to the (Atlantic) Ocean," and Arab conventions that "guarantee the rights of Arabs, including their human rights," the advertisement said the invitation was based on a law that was passed in 1989 that protects "the rights of every Arab residing in Libya" as it does the rights of Libyan nationals and regulated under a decision taken by the people's congresses of the country.

"The Great Jamahiriya (Libya), the land of each and every Arab, invites every Arab citizen, as individuals or groups wherever they are, to enjoy their right to reside (in Libya)...to invest...to own property...and to contribute to building industry and agriculture...and build a model Arab society throughout the Libyan soil," said the advertisement.

The advertisement said all Arabs wanting to settle or invest in Libya could apply to Libyan "offices in the Arab World" with immediate effect with details of personal status and qualifications or skills. It said the Libyan offices would provide all details and reply to all inquiries.

Following the appearance of the advertisement in the Egyptian press, Mohammad Sadeq of the information department of the Libyan embassy in Cairo was quoted as saying: "All you need to do is fill in a form at the Libyan embassy and produce two photos."

"We are not seeking a specific number of immigrants," Mr. Sadeq was quoted as saying by Reuters. The invitation is valid until the end of the year, he told the news agency.

Observers here expected a sizeable number of applicants, mostly because of economic reasons.

The invitation to immigrants runs counter to Libya's moves over the last two years to reduce the number of foreigners in the country. It has expelled tens of thousands of Egyptians and Sudanese.

Libya also ordered out several thousand Palestinians urging them to return to the Israeli-occupied territories in a bid to prove the "failure" of the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy agreements. At least 200 of the Palestinians remain stranded at the Libyan-Egyptian border after Egypt refused them entry because they did not have documents allowing them to leave Egyptian territory.

It was not immediately known whether the stranded Palestinians qualified to seek Libyan nationality as offered. According to Tripoli-based diplomats quoted in the international press, Libya could be trying to contain the outflow of foreign currency in the form of remittances by foreign workers by offering them nationality.

In practice, Arab workers in Libya have often been reluctant to take Libyan citizenship because they lose the right to remit earnings abroad, their main motive for working there, according to Reuters.

Jordanian stand on sanctions

On a bilateral front, the Libyan press last week highlighted a Jordanian call for a review of the United Nations sanctions against Libya.

The call was made by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti during a press conference he held with his Spanish counterpart Jose Maria Anzar following talks in Madrid on Monday.

Mr. Kabariti said the sanctions, imposed on Libya to pressure Tripoli into surrendering two Libyans suspected of involvement in the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, had not solved anything and that sanctions in general tended to add to the suffering of the people rather than pressuring the regimes.

"Libya is now under some sort of a sanctions...We would like to very much to (revisit) this idea of sanctions," Mr. Kabariti said. "It is very much needed for the international community to revise and consider the idea of sanctions, and see whether they really change the situation in the way that (they are) intended," said the prime minister.

In general, Mr. Kabariti added, "I believe that sanctions don't affect dictators and don't affect the regimes. In fact what they do is just add to the misery of the people and they don't solve any problems."

In reply to a question on reports that Libya could develop long-range nuclear missiles by the year 2006, Mr. Kabariti said "I doubt very much that Libya really had the time to develop such capabilities."

Euro-Arab Parliamentary Dialogue opens

(Continued from page 1)

ence in November 1991, it took a back-seat in its involvement in the Middle East peace process. Europe has been seeking to revitalise its political role beyond merely pledging financial aid. This has been encouraged by the Arabs, who perceive Europe to be more neutral. Washington has been resisting Europe's efforts.

According to a position paper submitted by the Europeans at the conference, Europe has a vested interest in peace, stability and prosperity in the region, as it has an effect on its own security, and it can provide it with an important market. This was one of the reasons that at the Barcelona summit held at the end of 1995, the EU called for a European-Mediterranean partnership which adopted a variety of positive measures designed to support peace and regional development. This would be achieved by supporting small projects, and encouraging investment and regional economic integration.

In regards to sanctions, the European position paper stresses that it is only the U.S. that continues to insist on sanctions against Iraq. This has led to differences between the American position and those of some European nations. As for sanctions against Libya, the paper says that France and Britain can encourage a solution by cooperating with Libyan authorities to investigate the Lockerbie case. The paper also encourages greater cooperation between Arab and European states to combat terrorism.

Lower House Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour opened the conference. He stressed the need to embark on a serious and honest dialogue, and the necessity of exchanging ideas and experience, based on mutual respect and a common inter-

est. Discussion on reactivating the stalled peace process must be based on the right of the people of the region to live in an environment of peace and prosperity, he said. Any such peace must respect the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state, with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of Lebanon and Syria to regain territories occupied by Israel.

Mr. Srour called on the Europeans, who have a special role to play in the region, to help lift the sanctions imposed on Libya, Iraq and Sudan, which, he said, have resulted in tremendous human suffering. He also emphasised the necessity of dealing with widespread misconceptions of Islam, and the effect the link made in the West between Islam and terrorism has had in reinforcing negative stereotypes.

Ahmad Al Qadry, a member of the Moroccan parliament, speaking on behalf of the chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, expressed hope that the conference would produce positive results that would strengthen and reinforce Arab-European ties. He stressed that in today's world dialogue was the best way to reach better understanding, to confirm mutual interests, and to strive towards greater cooperation.

Cooperation with Europe is needed to prevent the proliferation of non-conventional arms in the region, he added, emphasising the need to work towards greater economic and cultural cooperation which must be achieved on the basis of mutual respect.

Palestinians demand prisoner release

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians demonstrated throughout the West Bank Saturday demanding that Israel release Palestinian prisoners from its jails.

The marches and sit-ins took place in all the main cities of the West Bank and in Arab East Jerusalem. In Hebron about 200 people marched from the municipality to the office of the Red Cross carrying banners with slogans such as "no peace without release of prisoners" and "what does peace mean if the prisoners are still in jail."

In Qalqilya Ahmad Hazzar, a local leader of Yasser Arafat's Al-Fateh organisation, told the crowd "the Oslo agreement says the prisoners must be released, but Israel has not implemented it."

In Nablus mothers of prisoners staged a sit-down strike accusing Mr. Arafat of letting their sons languish in Israeli jails. "Our leaders ride in big cars," they shouted. "Arafat visits a new country every day. But who remembers to put in a word for our sons?"

Mubarak says Israeli policy is harming normalisation process

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday that Israel's hardline stance on the Middle East peace process has harmed the normalisation of relations between Israel and Egypt and other Arab states.

"The practices of the Israeli government are behind a reduction in normalisation with Arab countries, even those who do not maintain links (with the Jewish state)," Mr. Mubarak said.

"There were some joint Egypt-Israeli projects, as well as a cooperation and some exchange visits between Egyptian and Israeli businessmen but all this has been reduced because of the (Israeli) policies being followed," he

said.

The Egyptian government has been increasingly critical of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu because of the stalling of the Middle East peace process since he took power in June (see page 2).

Israel was scheduled to withdraw its troops from most of Hebron in March under 1995 peace accords but has delayed the move while demanding greater security guarantees for the 420 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank city.

"The tense atmosphere because of the non-implementation of the accords is reverberating on the Arab citizen because those who want to maintain cooperation with Israel need a climate of peace and not a

tense climate," Mr. Mubarak said during a joint press conference with visiting Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro.

He denied that his government was inciting Egyptians to cease all normalisation measures with Israel, but said the government could not order members of the private sector to invest in the Jewish state.

Mr. Scalfaro said Italy's role was not only to support Mr. Mubarak's peace efforts but also to unify the position of the European Union on the peace process.

He said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was in an "embarrassing position" because of the non-implementation of peace accord commitments.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Contestants of Prince Hassan Prize honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday distributed diplomas to contestants for the Prince Hassan Golden Prize in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Rahmah Bent Al Hassan. The total number of contestants for the prize reached 10,000 and prize winners 3,727 since it was constituted several years ago.

Prince Abdullah in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Saturday met with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister of Defence Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashed Al Maktoum and discussed with him bilateral relations as well as issues of common interest. Prince Abdullah is deputising, for His Majesty King Hussein to the UAE's celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the assumption of Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan his constitutional power and the silver jubilee establishment of the UAE.

Kabariti congratulates Algeria

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Saturday sent a cable to his Algerian counterpart Ahmad Oueyhi congratulating him on the success of last week's referendum on the Constitution and expressing hope for further progress and development to the Algerian people. Mr. Kabariti also sent a cable to his Egyptian counterpart Kamal Jazouiri condoling him over the death of Egyptian minister Abdul Hadi Radi.

Arab parties to meet in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of Al Mustakbal (Future) Party Suleiman

Arar said Saturday the general conference of Arab parties would be held here on Dec 16. He added that the Jordanian government had extended full support for the conference, which will focus on deliberations on Arab solidarity, political pluralism, and democratisation in the Arab World.

Fugitive turned over to Jordan

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt turned over a Jordanian wanted for swindling investors of \$4.2 million, police said. Abdul Fattah Al Qattani was arrested Saturday and handed over to Jordanian officials, who took him to the airport. Police said Qattani, 45, had lived in Egypt with his wife for six months. He had taken the money from investors to build a glass factory but then fled to Egypt, police said.

Israelis kill 2 in South Lebanon

MARIJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli forces killed two guerrillas in a clash on the edge of Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone on Saturday, pro-Israeli militia sources said. An Israeli force fired at the guerrillas in Jabal Al-Rafii, a rugged mountain area controlled by fighters of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah on the edge of the Israeli-held zone. The South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia sources said, "The Israeli force spotted four guerrillas in Jabal Al Rafii and fired at them and they fired back. Two guerrillas were killed," one source said. It was not immediately known if the two guerrillas killed belonged to Hizbollah or another faction. Israeli artillery also hit Jabal Al Rafii and Israeli helicopter gunships flew over the area after the exchanges of fire, the sources added. Hizbollah leads a guerrilla war against some 1,000 Israeli troops and the 3,000-strong SLA holding the 15-kilometre-deep zone in South Lebanon set up in 1985 to stop cross-frontier guerrilla raids on northern Israel.

COLUMN

Hong Kong 'Spiderman' becomes celebrity

HONG KONG (AFP) — "Spiderman" Alain Robert, a 34-year-old Frenchman who astonished Hong Kong by climbing the outside of one of its tallest skyscrapers unaided, has become a minor celebrity in the British territory. After making the front pages with his spectacular feat on Wednesday, Raymond has conducted press and television interviews and obliged the cameras by climbing part of the wall outside the courthouse where he was treated leniently for his eye-catching stunt.

Robert scaled the walls of the 200-metre Far East Finance Centre in admiralty by clutching onto the window rims with his bare hands. No rope or climbing tackle were used in his half-hour feat. Robert admitted to a charge in court that he had caused a public nuisance by scaling the building.

Thatcher still tough

LONDON (AFP) — Former British Premier Margaret Thatcher proved she had lost none of her legendary fighting spirit when she did a spot of Christmas shopping in parliament, sales staff said. The cause of the trouble was that the price of whisky in the House of Lords gift shop had not been reduced by 26p, as decreed in the budget on Tuesday. She insisted that the full amount be taken off each 12.75 bottle in the three cases she was ordering for Christmas and was unmoved when staff reasoned that the shop could not take tax off stock it had already bought, and would not be able to reclaim the duty if it gave her the discount. Sales boss Alfio Bibbiani intervened, but caved in after five minutes, as many have before him. "She is very determined. When she wants to pursue a point, she's very direct," he said.

Undertakers look for overhaul

SAO PAULO (R) — Latin American morticians, notorious for not always sending off the dead in the most flattering light, are meeting in Brazil this week to discuss ways to revamp their professional image. Hundreds of undertakers from Guatemala to Argentina were gathering in Sao Paulo through Saturday at Funepxo '96 to discuss ways of bringing respectability to the region's mortuaries, many of which are small family businesses. "The biggest complaint among clients is the presentation of the body," said Lourival A. Panhazzi, president of Sao Paulo's association of funeral homes.

Pregnant? Can I have your job?

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's state-run employment agency is under fire for a tip it gave job-hunters to approach pregnant women, find out where they work and ask if they plan to take maternity leave. A group of unemployed women has now complained to Sweden's parliamentary ombudsman about the advice, published in the job agency's newspaper, the national Swedish news agency TT said. "This is degrading. What will the next step be? Stand in the hospital casualty?" asked Siv Berglund, one of the group filing the petition. "I agree the formulation of the statement was a bit unfortunate," TT quoted Hakan Lindgren, the newspaper's publisher, as saying. "Mr. Sobeih said that for a freeze, we could be discussed," he said. "The ombudsman's office said it had not yet received the complaint."

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